JACKMAN IS CHOSEN TO HOST OSCARS, PG 31

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TORONTO • MONDAY DECEMBER 15 2008 metronews.ca

Sports Pg 18

Dallas Stars done with Avery

Probe blind eye charges, lawyer says

WITNESS The International Criminal Court should launch its own investigation into allegations some Canadian officers serving in Afghanistan told subordinates to look the other way when Afghan soldiers and local interpreters sodomized young boys, says University of British Columbia international law and politics expert Michael Byers, one of Canada's leading human-rights lawyers.

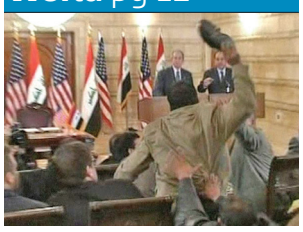
In a story yesterday in the Toronto Star, former Canadian soldier Tyrel Braaten said he witnessed Afghan interpreters bringing young boys inside buildings at a remote Canadian base outside Kandahar. Other Canadian soldiers have complained that Canadian officers told them not to get involved.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Workology pg 23

Nortel whiz solved NASA problem

World pg 12



Shoe thrown at Bush in Iraq

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BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldiers carry a casket at the ramp ceremony for late Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton, Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin and Pte. Justin Peter Jones at Kandahar Air Field last night. The ceremony was delayed several hours after several rocket attacks on the air field.

Impossible mission?

Dad mourns nephew as son heads for war zone

With a nephew killed in Afghanistan and a son headed for the same war zone, a grieving and frustrated Russell Higgins says Canadian soldiers are being wasted on a foolish mission.

Reached at his home yesterday in Upper Musquodoboit, N.S., Higgins said, "I don't figure our boys should be over there to start with. It's a fight that can't be won. They have been doing the same thing over there since the Crusades. You can't win a war against people that don't mind dying."

Higgins' nephew, Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton, was one of three Canadian soldiers killed Saturday by a roadside bomb. Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin and Pte. Justin Peter Jones also died.

The deaths came just eight days after Cpl. Mark McLaren, Warrant Officer Robert Wilson and Pte. Demetrios Diplaros died when their armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED) on the same stretch of highway west of Kandahar city. Funeral services for Wilson will be held today at a Roman Catholic chapel at CFB Petawawa.

"My son is getting ready to go over," Higgins said of his 26-year-old Peter. "What can be said? You can only do what you can do."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FALLEN HEROES, PAGE 11

Gagetown's loss

• All three victims of the latest tragedy in Afghanistan were based at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick. The loss raises Gagetown's death toll to 10 since 2005.

Bailout waits for U.S. fix

A $3.4-billion bailout package for the struggling Big Three Canadian automakers appears increasingly iffy as the Bush administration hesitates and the Harper government says it won't come through with an aid package unless Washington does so first.

"Unless there's a fix in the United States, it's very difficult for us to do something independently of that," Industry Minister Tony Clement said yesterday on CTV's Question Period.

Clement's announcement on Friday that Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty had reached agreement on helping the industry raised expectations that an emergency assistance package for the Canadian arms of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford would be on the way soon.

On Friday, the White House said it would jump in to provide billions of dollars in loans and lines of credit for the next few months to Chrysler, GM and Ford in the U.S.

Bush's move came after Republicans in the U.S. Senate refused to approve an interim $14-billion US rescue plan.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In Iraq

• With U.S. President George W. Bush on an unannounced trip to Iraq, White House officials said they did not expect to make an announcement on an auto bailout package today.

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Bike shop owner charged with assault with a weapon
Igor Kenk, owner of the bicycle shop on Queen Street West where police seized hundreds of stolen bikes last summer, was charged with assault with a weapon yesterday. Police say a metal pipe was swung at two people over a property dispute. No injuries were reported. Kenk, 50, is out on bail for bike theft and drug charges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Torontoist shuts down

Torontoist.com, a popular blog known for its quirky postings on just about anything related to Toronto, is shutting down. Editor-in-chief David Topping announced yesterday in an e-mail to staff and a posting on the site's homepage that the blog will end as of Jan. 1. Topping also said he would resign when the blog closes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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What's online today.

Video First priority for military is taking care of victims' families at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Newfoundland greets its 60th year in Canada with optimism at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video George W. Bush dodges shoes at **metronews.ca/world**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 12
Lotto Super 7: 1, 13, 23, 27, 34, 36 & 37. Bonus 39
Saturday, Dec. 13
Lotto 6/49: 4, 15, 34, 36, 43 & 47 Bonus 9
Sunday, Dec. 14
Ontario Pick 3: 4 0 3; **Ontario Pick 4** : 7 7 2 9
Encore: 4205582;
Daily Keno: 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 16, 24, 32, 35 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 47, 49, 51, 67, 70
These results are not official.

Boy, 12, shot through leg

After Theresa Bascombe heard several loud bangs near her home Saturday night, she didn't expect to see her 12-year-old son standing at the front door with a bullet hole in his right thigh and blood streaming down his leg.

Yesterday, Terrence Bascombe sat up in his bed in his mother's Pelham Avenue and Osler Street townhouse near St. Clair Avenue West and Keele Street.

Two small white bandages showed the entrance and exit points of the bullet that struck him. Surrounded by his mother and six of his brothers and sisters, he complained about the pain.

Terrence said he had been walking with a friend to another friend's house, a few doors from his home, to pick up a video game about 10:30 p.m. As they approached the entrance of the house, two older men walking a few metres behind them started shooting in their direction.

> **"His other friend said after they ran, the (suspects) ran away laughing, before driving away in a car."**
> Theresa Bascombe, victim's mother

"I started to run towards the alleyway," he said. "I felt something hit my leg but I wasn't sure that I got shot. When I got home I realized I got hit in my leg."

Shock started to set in as his leg gradually became numb.

Terrence didn't see the faces of the men, but said one of them was tall and the other short. He said one wore a ski mask and the other had a baseball cap with a "P" on the front.

Terrence said he had no problems with anyone at his nearby school. He's unable to walk and will miss the last week of school.

His mother said she was shocked when she saw him.

"I was very terrified," she said. "His other friend said after they ran, the men ran away laughing, before driving away in a car."

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Terrence Bascombe, 12, sits beside his mother Theresa Bascombe. The boy was shot in the leg Saturday near his west-end home.

Toronto police found several shotgun shell casings at the scene. An 18-year-old male was arrested, but released without charges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hit-and-runs injure 4 near nightclub

PICKERING Two hit-and-runs within 15 minutes outside a Pickering nightclub sent four to hospital yesterday.

Shortly before 2:30 a.m., a minivan drove into a crowd outside Tropix Restaurant and Lounge at 1790 Liverpool Rd., hitting three people.

A 35-year-old Toronto man received life-threatening injuries; two others suffered minor injuries.

As police and EMS arrived, a car hit an 18-year-old man and dragged him 30 metres. As the car fled, it struck two EMS vans, a fire truck and two cruisers. Police in cars and a helicopter chased the car to Port Union Road in Toronto, where it crashed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges

- The suspected driver of the second hit-and-run, a 21-year-old Toronto man, is charged with impaired driving and failure to remain.

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4 local **Meat recalled** Old Style pastrami made by Mariposa Meats in Mississauga has been recalled over potential listeria contamination. The pastrami is sold in 450-gram packages with a best-before date of Jan. 15, 2009. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Churches help families affected by auto woes

In Oshawa's gritty south end, tough economic times mean big business for Father Makarios Isaac.

JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Father Makarios Isaac of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church says many turn to faith in tough economic times.

"Everybody has been affected in this neighbourhood one way or another," said the priest at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, a stone's throw from the General Motors assembly plants facing layoffs or closure.

It's a time when the old adage — as GM goes, so goes Oshawa — affects more and more parts of the community.

In churches, collection plates may come back a little lighter. Some folks struggle to give when they need so much themselves.

For people in Oshawa, which once billed itself as "the city that moto-vates Canada," motivation is hard to come by.

And so, many turn to faith and religion, filling pews that may go empty in times of wealth and success.

Isaac said that when GM struggles, so do families whose faces greet him on Sunday mornings.

More of them are coming to him for counselling, coming to the church for food or financial help when they can't pay their bills.

"There are 150 families in the parish that we are supporting for Christmas," Isaac said. "For many people it has been a very difficult time. They feel disappointment inside."

Pastor Frank Seixas sees a similar picture among the evangelical congregation at Oshawa Community Church downtown.

His message is simple.

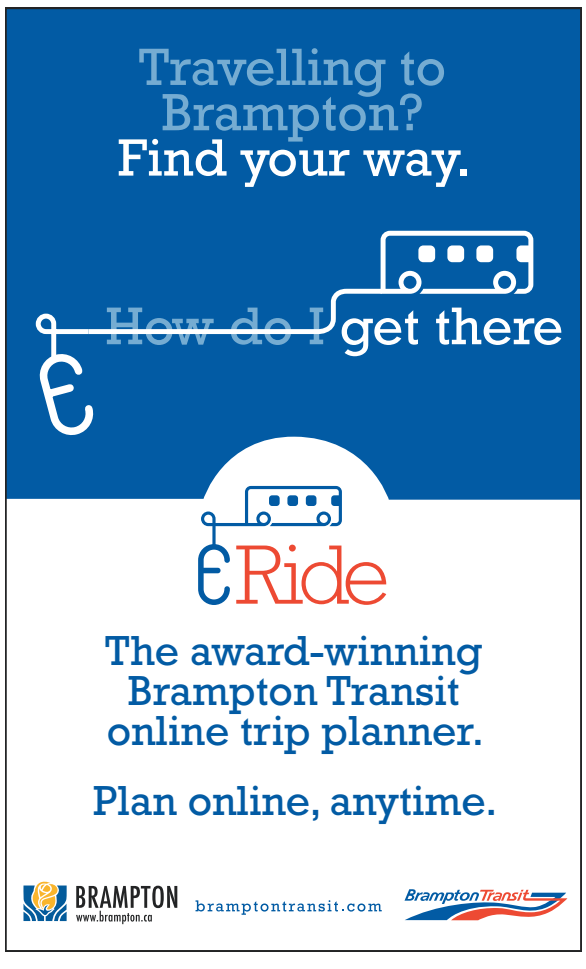
"People are going through hard times, so we draw our attention and focus our faith in peoples' lives to God," he said. "He has the ultimate answer. He is the one who can open doors and shut doors."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

ZAVEDA A fundraiser at the Duke of York tavern for a woman gunned down there in October raised $5,200 Saturday and attracted more than 200. Bailey Zaveda, 23, was killed by a stray bullet as she smoked outside the bar on Oct. 25.

CRASH There was little a TTC bus driver could do to avoid a crash that killed an SUV's driver on Sheppard Avenue East on Saturday, police say. A westbound SUV tried to turn left and drove into the eastbound bus' path. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Hygiene sinks to blame in deadly outbreak: Study

INFECTION The design and placement of hand hygiene stations in hospital rooms housing transplant patients was responsible for an outbreak of bacterial infections that left 12 patients dead and two dozen others sickened, Toronto doctors reveal in a new study.

The outbreak occurred between December 2004 and March 2006 at Toronto General Hospital.

Dr. Michael Gardam, senior author of the article, believes other hospitals could learn from the tragedy.

"The message from this for us was that hand hygiene sinks are obviously really important — and they have to be the right design ... And they can't be splashing." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Hiring of 60 bus supervisors urged

TTC Bus services added this year will run more efficiently if 60 new supervisors are hired, says TTC chair Adam Giambrone.

They would do the same job as those who manage difficult streetcar lines such as Queen — keeping an eye on where buses are and minimizing short turns and bunching.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Finch station turnstiles spinning again

Broken-down turnstiles that caused commuter bottlenecks at the TTC's Finch Station are back in service. The two automated turnstiles at the south entrance had long been cordoned off, creating backups at the collectors' booth during peak periods. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Learning to break barriers

'Lunch and Learn' program helps students meet, excel

A chemistry quiz is scheduled after lunch and Jessica Vuong is determined to ace it.

So the 17-year-old popped into the Lunch and Learn program at West Humber Collegiate for some extra help in organic chemistry.

About 40 students from Grades 9 to 12 are in "L-squared" where they chow down on pizza and fresh veggies before cracking open the books — feeding both body and brain.

"It's a fun way to spend lunch, eat good food and do my work," said Vuong, who joined this year.

The best part is many of the 15 tutors are friends at West Humber — smart kids anxious to help their schoolmates excel.

But there's more to it than homework help and improving grades. The program is changing the school environment.

"Lunch and Learn is very social and is having a positive effect on the school," said Irtiza Zaidi, noting he's met a lot of students in other grades. The program has broken down traditional social barriers. "This is definitely something all schools should have."

Lunch and Learn was created last year when kids at the Rexdale school met with community group Braeburn Neighbourhood Place, which purchased 26 computers for the program, which it shared with the high school. It was made possible with money from the Youth Challenge Fund.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Dental care program begins for 1,100 low-income seniors

PEEL REGION Like many low-income seniors, Linda Manicki chose the pain of an infected tooth over the sting of a dental bill.

That all changed a few weeks ago when, after reading about Peel Region's new dental care program for low-income seniors, Manicki, 65, became one of the first to receive treatment.

"I am on a very limited budget and at the end of the month there is no money left over, certainly nothing for a dentist," said Manicki.

Her tooth was removed, and the pain is gone.

Manicki is one of 1,100 in the region who registered for the program after it was announced in mid-November. They will receive treatment within the next six months. Some 479 more are on a waiting list.

"It has had such an amazing response from people," noted Carolyn Parrish, the Mississauga councillor who pushed hard for the program after the Toronto Star's 2007 series on dental care for the working poor.

Meanwhile, Ontario's promised dental program for the working poor, announced in 2007, is yet to be seen. On Friday, a Health Ministry spokesperson said the commitment still exists and there will be an update in early 2009. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dentists

- Under the program, the region's public health department pays dentists 70 per cent of their regular fees.

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8 local

Credit rules urged Canadians who find it difficult to pay their credit card bills would benefit from credit card rules such as regulated interest rate hikes for late payments, said Kevin Leonard, a professor at U of T. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

York year at risk without holiday deal, prof says

Some things won't wait for the end of the York University strike.

Pregnancy, for one.

A student in Professor Don Rubin's fall course on African theatre was a credit away from finishing her degree and returning to Ethiopia in December to join her husband and await a new baby. Then the teaching strike hit Nov. 6. At seven months pregnant, she couldn't wait, so she flew home without that credit.

"When the strike is over I'll create assignments and a take-home exam," explained Rubin, director of York's graduate program in theatre studies.

How much longer can the strike go on before students risk losing their year, or semester, or at least face May classes that could jeopardize summer jobs? About three more weeks until May classes are needed, according to Rubin's math.

University officials won't discuss the point at which the school year could be at risk, but Rubin says a deal is needed over the holidays if the year is to be saved without stretching into May. By cancelling Reading Week, trimming a week off each semester and tightening both fall and winter exam periods, "it'll be close, but it's doable — if classes start Jan. 5."

But even if classes resume Jan. 5, it's not clear whether professors due to retire or go on sabbatical Dec. 31 would return to finish teaching their first-term courses, or if York would have to scramble to hire replacements. Students applying for graduate programs will be late sending in first-term marks. Exchange students may have to switch flights and extend visas.

There are currently no negotiations scheduled and no plans by Queen's Park to force an end to the strike.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

December done

- York officials have said that as of today, it's too late for classes to resume in December, even if a deal were to be reached tonight with the Canadian Union of Public Employees 3903, which represents 3,340 teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants.

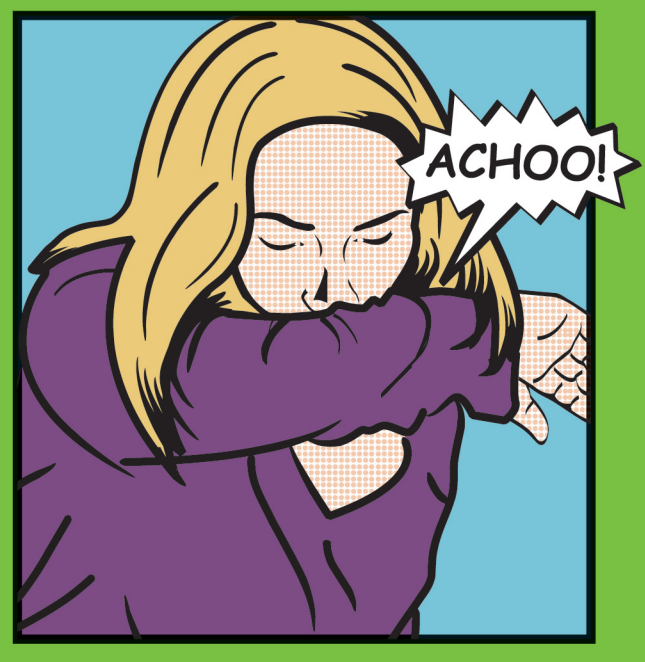
Children's programs cut due to financial pinch

LAYOFFS Variety Village, which offers recreation and fitness programs for children with special needs across the GTA, has temporarily suspended two of its programs and laid off 21 staff due to a growing financial crunch.

The charity is short about $250,000, according to CEO John Willson, due to a decline in revenue from its bingo operations.

Also, 18 senior staff, including Willson, have taken a 10 per cent pay cut, the CEO said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No tissue?



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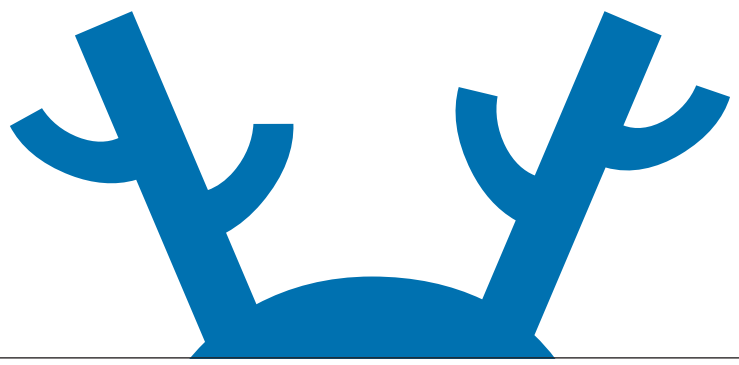

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  - Exchange Tower
  - Gerrard Square
  - Scotia Plaza
  - Toronto Life Square
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- UXBRIDGE
  - 307 Toronto St S
- VAUGHAN
  - Vaughan Mills
- WHITBY
  - Whitby Mall
  - Whitby SmartCentres
- WILLOWDALE
  - Fairview Mall
- WOODBRIDGE
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New truth commission head to be named

Former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci is set to move on a process to choose the new head of the $60-million truth commission into abuse at native residential schools. Sources say the operations should be back on track by January. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

Reject offer: Postal Union

The Public Service Alliance of Canada is recommending that 2,100 striking members reject Canada Post's latest contract offer in a vote that began on the weekend. The final tally should be known by today.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Infamous dress to be auctioned

POLITICS Julie Couillard's famous dress may be auctioned off next spring, said prominent Quebec personality Michel Girouard.

The dress "with a decollete that made all North American males salivate," Girouard said on his website, was worn by Couillard during the swearing-in ceremony of former Conservative minister and ex-boyfriend Maxime Bernier in August 2007.

"I think it's a fantastic dress, a very, very good dress for her," he said.

"She knows exactly what marketing is ... I'm sure she was persuaded it would be front page."

The paisley, flouncy dress was deemed inappropriate for the staid Rideau Hall swearing-in ceremony by many commentators.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Dark future' for Ontario?

While champagne corks pop in Newfoundland to celebrate that province's historic admission to the most exclusive club in Confederation, Ontario will be giving up its lifelong membership as it faces a dark, uncertain future as the country's newest have-not province.

For the first time in its history, Ontario is expected to collect $347 million in federal equalization payments in 2009 — for some, the ultimate symbol of its transformation from the country's economic engine to one of its poor cousins.

> **"At a high enough energy price, Ontario has got to become a have-not province."**
> Thomas Courchene, Queen's University

Hard hit by massive job losses in its key manufacturing sector, Ontario's once booming economy has fallen victim to the global economic crisis.

The province is staring down a $500-million deficit this year — which could balloon if it helps bail out troubled automakers — while resource-rich provinces like Newfoundland are bucking the economic trend with billion-dollar surpluses.

Tumbling oil prices could keep Ontario off the list of have-not provinces in the coming year, but it may not be able to dodge the bullet in 2010, said Finance Minister Dwight Duncan.

"At a high enough energy price, Ontario has got to become a have-not province," said Thomas Courchene, a Queen's University economics professor. "It's that the energy provinces are just getting unbelievable amounts of revenue. This raises the average of the system, and Ontario falls below the average."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TRADITION For nearly 130 years, in West Monstrose, a Waterloo area village, a bridge has been a landmark and important passageway, linking one side of the community to the other. In recent times, residents have discovered that Ontario's last standing covered bridge also has musicality with its dense hardwood. The tremendous acoustics of the bridge will be on display tonight when villagers gather by moonlight, as they do one night every December, to sing carols under the bridge.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Criminals head to northern Ontario to hide out

DOCUMENTS Canada's border cops began a sweep of northern Ontario earlier this year to catch some of the 1,973 criminals who have apparently gone underground to avoid being kicked out of the country.

Newly disclosed documents show the pilot project was launched last April as the Canada Border Services Agency came under pressure from a cabinet minister to root out more unwanted visitors and send them packing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Alberta Liberals elect new leader
The Alberta Liberals have pinned their hopes for an end to almost nine decades of second place on a Calgary doctor who says he represents the "sensible centre." David Swann has taken the reins of the struggling nine-member Opposition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Families, country mourn deaths of fallen heroes

Pte. Justin Jones

Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin

Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton

Just over a week before a roadside bomb ended his young life, Justin Jones was at home in Newfoundland, celebrating a trio of events with his family and eagerly awaiting his return to Afghanistan.

The rookie soldier was back in Baie Verte for two weeks to mark an early Christmas, his 21st birthday and his beloved grandparents' 50th anniversary.

It was a brief respite from his first tour in Afghanistan.

When friends and family saw him off last Friday, they anxiously made plans for his return.

But those plans were shattered Saturday when they received word that he was killed alongside two other Canadian comrades, Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton and Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin, when a roadside bomb tore through their vehicle on a road just west of Kandahar.

"He was looking forward to going back," Justin Jones' great aunt said from Baie Verte,

" It was an adventure for him. That was his dream to join the military."

"It has certainly hit us very hard," Col. Ken Chadder told a news conference at the base yesterday.

"Our priority will be make sure that we look after the families in this very sad and difficult time for them." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snow tires the law in Quebec

Drivers slapped with $300 fine if caught without winter radials

It was either use them as ottomans, or maybe coffee table legs, but like anyone with the slimmest of design sense, Eric Kamau thought he'd be better off finding a place to store his winter tires.

A new winter tire law comes into effect today in Quebec, forcing Kamau and hundreds of thousands of others to buy winter radials.

Police can start pulling over motorists and handing out $300 fines to people who haven't installed them.

The new law, a first in Canada, appears to have pinched supply of snow tires elsewhere in the country.

But it has also created some headaches at home as many Quebecers puzzle over where to put the four round, dirty rubber carcasses that must come off their cars, if they don't have a garage or a shed.

The dilemma has led to a booming business in tire storage in Quebec. There are now radio advertisements urging people to avoid the hassle of storing the tires themselves.

One Montreal garage and distributor had to open a new storage location to meet the extra demand, and now holds over 30,000 customer tires for the season.

"This new law has had an enormous impact," said Nicolas Touchette, vice president of Pneus Touchette.

Kamau, a 32-year-old pharmacist, lives in a condominium in downtown Montreal. "I don't have any space to store four tires," he said.

So after getting his tires changed at Centre-Ville Pneus et Mécanique, they stored his summer radials for $25.

The new law has prompted complaints that it will be difficult to enforce, or that they can't afford new tires, which can run over $500 for cheap ones.

Like most Quebecers, it seems, Kamau supports the new law, in spite of the cost. "It makes it easier to drive in the winter," he said.

"It's a trade off," echoed Farzad Kohantorabi, a 28-year-old software company employee.

"I'm cautious and I buy winter tires. But the car in front of me might not be and that's a danger to me," he said.

"They can lose control." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Safety on wheels

- Tests by the transport ministry showed that snow tires can reduce braking distance by 23 per cent compared to all-season tires.

RCMP, aboriginal police tackle Quebec organized crime

CRIME A joint squad of RCMP, Quebec provincial police and aboriginal police officers is fighting organized crime in native communities and helping boost the skills of aboriginal cops.

"We have contacts in all the communities," says Robert St-Jules, the RCMP staff-sergeant in charge of operations for the Montreal-based Aboriginal Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit.

St-Jules said aboriginal communities are of interest to organized crime groups because they allow easy crossing between Canada and the United States and touch other provinces. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CHARGE A 61-year-old Vancouver man was charged in connection with the fatal shooting of his former boss at an office Christmas party. Eric Allen Kirkpatrick faces one count of first-degree murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chertoff says Obama shouldn't rush to close Guantanamo prison camp

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said yesterday that president-elect Barack Obama shouldn't rush to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp before he has a plan to deal with all the detainees, particularly those who can't be sent back to their own countries for trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Palin's church struck by arson

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's home church was badly damaged by arson Friday night, leading the governor to apologize if the fire was connected to "undeserved negative attention" from her failed campaign as the Republican vice-presidential nominee. Damage to the Wasilla Bible Church was estimated at $1 million US, authorities said Saturday. No one was injured in the fire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bush ducks shoes in Iraq

His legacy forever linked to an unpopular war, U.S. President George W. Bush flew to Iraq yesterday, where he called the nearly six-year conflict hard but necessary to protect the United States and got two shoes hurled at him for his trouble.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/APTN

In this image from APTN video, a man throws a shoe at U.S. President George W. Bush during a news conference with Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki yesterday in Baghdad.

Bush got a size-10 reminder of the intense opposition to his policies when a man threw his shoes at him — one after another — during a news conference with Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

"This is a farewell kiss, you dog!" shouted the man, later identified as Muntadar al-Zeidi, a correspondent for Al-Baghdadia television, an Iraqi-owned station based in Cairo, Egypt.

Bush ducked both throws.

Neither leader was hit.

Bush visited the Iraqi capital just 37 days before he hands the war off to president-elect Barack Obama, who has pledged to end it. The president wanted to highlight a drop in violence in a country still riven by ethnic strife and to celebrate a recent U.S.-Iraq security agreement, which calls for U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

"There is still more work to be done," Bush said after his meeting with al-Maliki, adding the agreement puts Iraq on solid footing. "The war is not over."

In many ways, the unannounced trip was a victory lap without a clear victory. Nearly 150,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq fighting a war that is intensely disliked across the globe. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and more than 4,200 members of the U.S. military have died in the conflict, which has cost American taxpayers $576 billion US.

Bush then flew to Afghanistan, a surprise stop to rally U.S. troops and review the deteriorating military and political situation in the seven-year-old war.

Bush's unannounced visit early today was his first in more than 2½ years and only the second of his presidency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George W. Bush's artful dodge of shoes hurled at him in Baghdad at metronews.ca/world

Greece calms down after 8 days of riots

PEACE Athens was calm yesterday after eight days of the worst riots Greece has seen in decades, sparked by the police killing of a teenager.

Traffic returned to normal in the centre of town and open-topped double-decker buses carried tourists around the city's main sights. The cafes in the Thissio area under the Acropolis were busy, and couples took their children for walks.

"We are going to have periodic flare-ups. It will take a generation or two to straighten things out in Greece." Theodore Couloumbis

But Greek youths who have protested daily since the boy's death have vowed to remain on the streets until their concerns are addressed. Protesters are angry not just at police but at a government already on the defensive over a series of financial scandals, and over economic issues.

Analyst Theodore Couloumbis, however, said he expected the disturbances to "peter out" over the next few days.

"We are going to have periodic flare-ups," said Couloumbis, a professor emeritus of international relations at the University of Athens. "It will take a generation or two to straighten things out in Greece."

Violence has wracked Greece since the death of Alexandros Grigoropoulos, 15, on Dec. 6. It spread from Athens to more than a dozen other cities. At least 70 people have been injured, hundreds of stores have been looted and more than 200 people have been arrested. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama has little time to curb global warming

ENVIRONMENT Global warming has become a ticking time bomb that U.S. president-elect Barack Obama can't avoid.

Since 1993, summer Arctic sea ice has lost the equivalent of Alaska, California and Texas, and the 10 hottest years on record have occurred. Global warming is accelerating. Time is close to running out, and Obama knows it.

"The time for delay is over; the time for denial is over." Barack Obama

"The time for delay is over; the time for denial is over," he said last week after meeting with former U.S. vice-president Al Gore, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for his work on global warming.

Obama is pushing changes in the way Americans use energy, and produce greenhouse gases, as part of what will be a massive economic stimulus. He called it an opportunity "to re-power America."

After years of inaction on global warming, 2009 might be different. Obama will replace a president who opposed mandatory cuts of greenhouse gas pollution, and it appears he will have a willing Congress.

Also, next year, diplomats will try to agree on a major new international treaty to curb the gases that promote global warming. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officials issue fresh calls for governor's resignation

CORRUPTION A handful of Illinois' top politicians called disgraced Gov. Rod Blagojevich incapacitated yesterday, issuing fresh calls for his resignation as legislators gear up for a session that could lead to his impeachment.

Fellow Democrats Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Lt.-Gov. Patrick Quinn criticized the governor anew during appearances on NBC's Meet the Press and CBS's Face the Nation.

Blagojevich was arrested Tuesday on federal corruption charges, including allegations he tried to sell president-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder.

Madigan has asked the Supreme Court to declare Blagojevich unfit to serve, and she said yesterday she expects word on whether the justices will hear her request "probably just in a few days." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain offers Pakistan more aid in terror fight
British Prime Minister Gordon Brown says his country will give Pakistan millions more in funding and technology to eradicate terrorism in the wake of the attacks in Mumbai, India. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hormones tied to breast cancer

Taking menopause hormones for five years doubles the risk for breast cancer, according to a new analysis of a big federal study that reveals the most dramatic evidence yet of the dangers of these still-popular pills.

Even women who took estrogen and progestin pills for as little as a couple of years had a greater chance of getting cancer. And when they stopped taking them, their odds quickly improved, returning to a normal risk level roughly two years after quitting.

Collectively, these new findings are likely to end any doubt that the risks outweigh the benefits for most women.

"It's an excellent message for women: You can still diminish risk (by quitting), even if you've been on hormones for a long time."
Dr. Claudine Isaacs

It is clear that breast cancer rates plunged in recent years mainly because millions of women quit hormone therapy and fewer newly menopausal women started on it, said the study's leader, Dr. Rowan Chlebowski of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

"It's an excellent message for women: You can still diminish risk (by quitting), even if you've been on hormones for a long time," said Dr. Claudine Isaacs of Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. come down.''

Study results were given Saturday at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians gather for Hamas anniversary rally

CELEBRATION Gaza's militant Hamas rulers marshalled hundreds of thousands of supporters to a huge anniversary rally yesterday, a show of muscle featuring a skit of a mock-captive Israeli soldier begging for his freedom.

Marking 21 years since its founding, a triumphant Hamas bragged about its violent exploits, promised more money to Gaza's impoverished people and announced it would soon stop recognizing the legitimacy of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who rules only the West Bank now.

Organizers said about 300,000 Hamas supporters crowded into a dusty outdoor arena and spilled over into nearby streets. Many waved flags and sported baseball caps in the Islamic group's signature green colour.

In the skit, Hamas paraded a Palestinian speaking Hebrew and dressed in an Israeli soldier's uniform — a reference to Israeli Sgt. Gilad Schalit, captured by Hamas-allied militants in June 2006.

HATEM MOUSSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Palestinian supporters of Hamas attend a rally in Gaza City yesterday.

The capture of Schalit in a cross-border raid is an open wound in Israeli society. The taunt at the rally drew condemnation from Israel, which has been indirectly negotiating the soldier's release with Hamas for the past two and a half years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

AFRICA Somalia's President Abdullahi Yusuf fired his prime minister yesterday, saying he failed to bring security to a country struggling with a violent insurgency and political turmoil after Islamic militants took over most of the country.

CALIFORNIA Fed up with the nocturnal work habits of its mayor, a California city council has approved a curfew limiting how late she can work at City Hall. South El Monte council members say they have safety and liability concerns for Mayor Blanca Figueroa, who must now leave the building by 11 p.m.

EGYPT A bus packed with passengers travelling along a narrow road in southern Egypt plunged into an irrigation canal, killing 47 people. Minya Governor Ahmed Diaa says the bus swerved to avoid an oncoming pickup truck on the road to Cairo from the southern city of Minya, 214 kilometres to the south.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan police officers killed by bomb

AFGHANISTAN A bomb hidden in a wooden cart exploded yesterday in Kandahar City, killing three Afghan police officers and wounding 11 people.

Zalmai Ayubi, a spokesman for the governor said the attack targeted a police vehicle, and that five police officers were among those wounded.

Violence has been rising steadily in Afghanistan. In the past two weeks, six Canadian soldiers and four British Marines have been killed in southern Afghanistan.

According to an Associated Press count of figures from Afghan and western officials, more than 6,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence this year alone.

U.S. commanders have requested an additional 20,000 American troops to support the 32,000 U.S. forces already in the country.

In total the 41-nation international mission has close to 70,000 troops in Afghanistan, including about 2,500 Canadians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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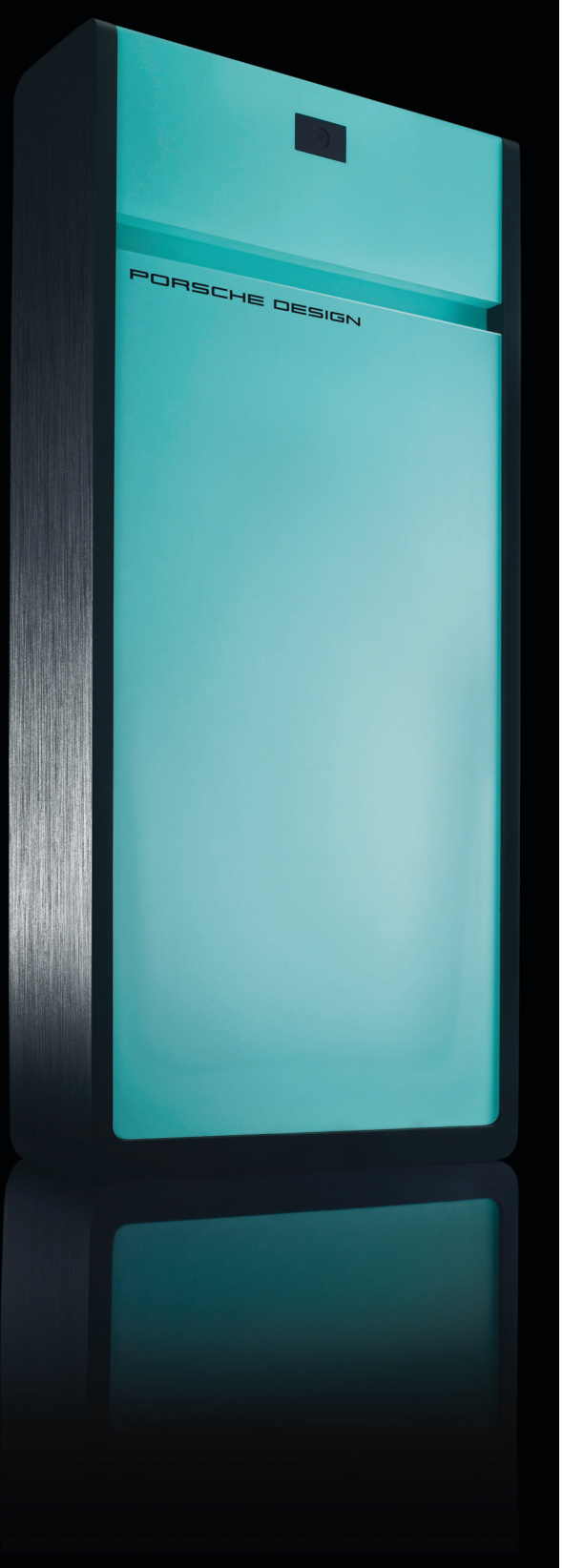

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Comment & Views

Comment

Coalition of thoughts

HineSight

Anne Hines

This morning, my friend, Rob, called. Our conversation went something like this:

Rob: Hi, am I interrupting anything?

Me: I'm writing.

Rob: Good, I thought you might be busy. Something alarming's happened.

This could mean either No. 1, beer's gone up a cent a bottle, or No. 2, Rob's started dating again.

Rob: I'm worried about what's happening with our government.

It's No. 2. My friend Rob is a dear, sweet, clueless man who feels the way to a woman's heart is to agree with everything she says. Works for me.

Me: What happened to the vegan you were seeing?

Rob: She complained about the restaurant I'd picked so I suggested we just go forage for nuts and berries in the park.

Me: Where did you want to take her?

Rob: The Keg. They've got lettuce. I think. Anyway, I went out with this woman who says if this coalition government takes over, it's going to be very bad for kids.

Me: Because third graders will have to learn to spell Ignatieff?

Rob: Plus, it will show that the government of this country can be replaced at any time. You know what that's called?

Me: I'll go out on a limb here … democracy?

Rob: No, no, chaos.

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference.

Rob: So she says what we have to do is invade Quebec.

I pause. I figure there are two possible responses. No. 1, "You had fewer nuts with the vegan," or No. 2, "Uh … what?" I opt for No. 2.

Rob: We must attack. Shut down Quebec's ability to have a say in government.

Me: This is about you wanting to wear your Halloween combat costume again, isn't it?

Rob: No. Not entirely.

Me: So, she wants to protect Canada by denying rights to Canadians? There's a word for that.

Rob: Decisive?

Me: OK … or maybe, "insane."

Rob: She says if we don't deal with Quebec, other groups may start thinking they can hang onto their language and traditions. Canada could become multicultural.

Me: It is.

Rob: Oh … right.

Me: Sweetie, get some information and think this through for yourself. You can still wear the costume. But maybe just around the house. Any other dates lined up?

Rob: Tonight I'm going to a séance with a woman who thinks spirits should be allowed to vote.

Tomorrow, I'm just not answering the phone.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

TTC fare freeze and some holiday gift ideas

InTransit

Ed Drass

transit@eddrass.com

Call it a Christmas gift or just another new year's resolution, but Toronto Mayor David Miller wants the TTC to freeze fares in 2009. While many will perceive this as a promise from the city's top official, it could just be a recommendation — a request.

The city councillors who oversee the transit commission will have to agree and must still account for rising costs. To make up a budget shortfall, the TTC has several options.

If fare hikes are off the table, the agency can ask for extra operating funds from city council or even the province. Don't count on this during our current economic situation.

The TTC can cut service, which would look pretty dumb after having made huge expansions in 2008. Finding efficiencies is also an option, although somebody always loses when an organization cuts costs and internal resistance could be severe.

Whether in 2009 or 2010, eventually fares will go up. Recent hikes occurred with little warning — or amid a funding "crisis." TTC chair Adam Giambrone can avoid these scenarios by reporting on the commission's finances to us regularly.

On a more modest scale, this is the time of year when I look for gifts you can give transit riders. Since the demise of adult tickets, some TTC users have been forced to buy tokens, even though they fear losing them with other change.

Somebody out there could do commuters a favour and create a flat holder to keep tokens safely inside a wallet.

For now, you can carry TTC fare in a regular coin purse, or in a custom-made plastic holder available at most Gateway newsstands and some variety stores. These little blue items fit eight tokens adequately and cost $2 or less.

The Gateway stand on the northbound platform of Dundas station also sells the sturdy "Portsou" coin and token carrier for about $6, or order it directly via changeiseasy.ca.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday.

Quick tip

• The redesigned official website ttc.ca currently lists when the next three vehicles are scheduled to pass major stops. A reader wrote me asking what happened to schedules that show the entire day. The TTC reports other riders also complained and there are now special notes directing site users to the complete timetables.

Letters

CUPE's goals in York strike difficult to understand

The month-long strike at York University has left thousands of undergraduate students unclear of what will happen to their academic year.

From media releases, it appears the university has largely remained steadfast in its aims and goals but what CUPE (representing graduate/teaching assistants and contract faculty) is interested in achieving is still unclear.

I'm not implying that they are wrong or misguided; it's just difficult to understand their goals.

For example, I read that increased job security is a top priority. Based on this union's membership, this is a difficult demand to comprehend.

THOMAS HAWKE, TORONTO

Dion offers 'priceless' moment in Canadian politics

I'm sorry the Liberal party is getting rid of Stéphane Dion. I'm going to miss this entertaining Inspector Clouseau of Canadian politics.

During the most important TV address of his life asking the Canadian people to make him the prime minister, Dion had a book behind his right shoulder with the large title of Hot Air.

It was priceless.

CHRIS ROBERSTON, STONEY CREEK

Queen should not have been dragged into political arena

To say that I was appalled at Paul Sullivan's article (Dec. 10) on the absolution of the monarchy is an understatement.

First, Mr. Sullivan if you are to render the Queen without her title, her correct name would be Mrs. Mountbatten, not Windsor, as that was her maiden name.

Secondly, the Queen's role in a constitutional monarchy, which we are in Canada, is to "warn, encourage and to advise" and not dictate as your article purported. You, sir, have a very distorted and uniformed view of our monarchy in Canada.

Mr. Sullivan has drawn the monarch into a political arena where she does not belong. The sovereignty is above politics and acts as a safeguard in our system.

REGINA SILVA ROBINSON, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Maple Leaf boss to talk food safety in pre-Christmas TV ads

During the week before Christmas, the president of Maple Leaf Foods will be coming to television screens across Canada to tout his company's obsession with food safety — several months after a deadly listeriosis outbreak killed 20 people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

Rogers upgrades network

Rogers Wireless has upgraded one of its networks to get ready for the next generation of faster mobile devices, but most currently available devices including the iPhone and BlackBerry Bold smartphones won't be able to take advantage of the 3.5G network features. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

World's richest Arab loses $4B in global financial crisis

INVESTOR The Saudi prince who owns a double-decker Airbus A380 superjumbo "flying palace" and recently raised his stake on Citigroup lost $4 billion US in the past year, according to a report yesterday, showing that even the ultra-rich are getting pinched by the global financial crisis.

The pain is relative, of course. Prince Alwaleed bin Talal remains the world's richest Arab with a net worth of about $17 billion as of Dec. 2, Dubai-based magazine Arabian Business reported in its annual ranking. That is a considerable drop from the $21 billion the prince was worth a year ago.

Altogether, the magazine said the world's 50 richest Arabs lost a combined $25 billion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Bin Ladens

- The Bin Laden family, which has tried to distance itself from its most notorious member, has a net worth of $7.2 billion — good for seventh place.

In brief

OPEC MEETING The Iranian Oil Ministry says Iran will push for a production cut of 1.5 to two million barrels per day at OPEC's meeting in Algeria. A meeting in Cairo last month left the decision to cut prices for Wednesday's session.

BIOVAIL Eugene Melnyk has increased his stake in Biovail Corp., the drug company he founded and once headed, to 13.5 per cent, buying 4.7 million shares in a private deal for about $50.7 million. Earlier this year, Melnyk tried to replace the company's board in a spat over its direction. Melnyk favours sticking with Biovail's traditional mix of hard-to-replicate generic products, while the board wants it to primarily produce drugs for the central nervous system.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stocks gloom not yet over

Pessimism over auto industry

The Toronto stock market is likely in for further losses in the coming week amid a litany of bad economic news and deepening pessimism about the future of the North American auto industry.

"I think the best we can hope for over the near term is that the market has largely absorbed the fact the U.S. economy is knee-deep in a very vicious recession," said Doug Porter, senior economist with BMO Capital Markets.

The Toronto stock market actually ended last week higher thanks to firmer commodity prices, rising 4.9 per cent even as the Bank of Canada declared the country was entering a recession.

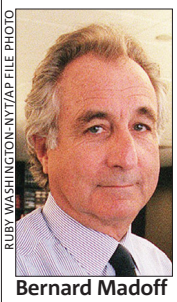
> **"I think the best we can hope for ... is that the market has largely absorbed the fact the U.S. economy is knee-deep in a very vicious recession."**
> Doug Porter

Porter suggested that despite the gloom, there are a few positives that could help out next year — including the $100 US drop in oil prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swiss bank has $48M with Madoff

INVESTMENT Swiss bank Banque Benedict Hentsch Fairfield Partners said Saturday it has $47.5 million US of client assets invested under the management of American financier Bernard Madoff, who has been accused by U.S. authorities of running a phoney investment business that lost at least $50 billion.



RUBY WASHINGTON-NYT/AP FILE PHOTO

Bernard Madoff

Madoff, a former Nasdaq stock market chairman, was arrested Thursday in New York hours after the collapse of Bernard Madoff Investment Securities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CanCon not enough for Heat

Montreal native Joel Anthony registered his first career NBA double-double for the Miami Heat yesterday, scoring 12 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. Teammate and Toronto native Jamaal Magloire received a technical foul for allegedly headbutting Darko Milicic as Miami was spanked 102-86 by the Memphis Grizzlies. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Morison wins Giant Slalom

Matthew Morison, left, of Burketon, Ont., won the Giant Slalom event at the FIS World Cup snowboarding stop in Italy yesterday. Morison beat France's Sylvain Dufour, while Canadian teammate Jasey Jay Anderson finished third. On the women's side, Doris Guenther of Austria won gold just ahead of Calgary's Kimiko Zakreski. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Weekend in brief

MLB To virtually no one's surprise, free agent pitcher A.J. Burnett reached a preliminary agreement with the New York Yankees on a five-year, $82.5 million US contract Friday. The deal came two days after the Yanks reached an agreement with righthander CC Sabathia on a seven-year, $161 million contract. The departure of Burnett currently leaves the Blue Jays with a tentative 2009 pitching rotation of Roy Halladay, Jesse Litsch, David Purcey and free agent addition Matt Clement.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

MLS Toronto FC added some hometown flair in Dwayne De Rosario on Friday, acquiring the all-star attacking midfielder from the Houston Dynamo in exchange for defender Julius James and allocation money. De Rosario is a three-time all-star and four-time MLS Cup winner with Houston and San Jose. The 30-year-old Canadian international playmaker has 51 goals and 42 assists in eight MLS seasons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Posey, Hornets sting Raptors

NBA RESULT

Hornets 99 **Raptors** 91

VS

THE SKINNY: David West scored 29 points, James Posey added a season-high 20 points, including six 3-pointers for the Hornets, who beat the Raptors 99-91 yesterday for Toronto's sixth loss in eight games.

THE CHRIS PAUL FACTOR: The Raptors employed a defensive strategy to keep Paul from scoring inside, so the lightning-quick point guard instead dished out 12 assists. The Hornets hit a total of 12 3-pointers in the game.

THE QUOTE: "You have to be aware of where he is all the time," said Raptors coach Jay Triano on Paul. "He's got nice pieces to throw the ball to and he can pick you apart."

FINDING A SILVER LINING: "I feel pretty good even with the loss," said Jose Calderon, who was a perfect 8-for-8 from the field. "We're competing against everybody now, we had a chance to win, they're a pretty good team."

JAKE THE RAKE: The Raptors added some depth up front yesterday, signing veteran centre Jake Voskuhl. The 31-year-old played 44 games for Milwaukee last season, and previously played under Bryan Colangelo in Phoenix from 2001-05.

THE NEXT GAME: Back at it tonight as Vince Carter and the Nets return for the second time in four weeks. (7 p.m., TSN2, FAN 590). Their last game here on Nov. 21 ended nightmarishly for the Raptors as a complete defensive breakdown allowed Carter to win the game untouched.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Paul tries to drive to the basket between Anthony Parker and Andrea Bargnani yesterday. Parker returned to the Raptors' lineup after a two-game absence with an ankle injury.

Avery done in Dallas

Sean Avery's stint with the Dallas Stars lasted just 23 games.

The Stars announced yesterday they were done with the feisty winger, noting it was time for the Stars to have "closure on this episode."

Avery

Avery received a six-game suspension from commissioner Gary Bettman after saying earlier this month that other NHL players are after his "sloppy seconds." While that ban ended when Dallas played in Nashville on Saturday night, Avery will not return to hockey until the Stars can find somewhere else for him to play.

"I'm not so sure that it's an easy or hard deal," Stars co-general manager Brett Hull said. "You want what's best for the player, but more importantly for us, we want what's best for the Dallas Stars and our owner Tom Hicks. It's something you have to look at and do what's right for both parties."

Hull said the entire Avery situation could be summed up as simply a player not wanting to follow team rules. "I honestly believe the issues that Sean had really kind of festered when he came to Dallas and things didn't work out for him as he had planned, as we had planned."

The Stars say they won't challenge the conduct clause in Avery's contract and will explore any options for his future that are consistent with the anger management counselling he's receiving as part of his suspension.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Junior team to be set today

HOCKEY Hockey Canada will announce today its roster for the world junior championship after wrapping up a three-day selection camp last night in Ottawa. John Tavares, Jamie Benn and Tyler Ennis were the leading scorers in three intra-squad scrimmages.

Head coach Pat Quinn will announce the roster today at 11:15 a.m.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO CANADA

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Yonge Street Mission is a registered agency with Toronto's Christmas Bureau program. Each year registrations for assistance escalate as more people turn to us and we are flooded with requests. That means your gifts are essential to help us offer a season of joy, hope and celebration.

Please help us reach out to all who will turn to us this Christmas Season with gifts to warm the heart and spread hope and goodwill. You can make a difference – we urgently need your support!

Special ways you can help this Christmas!

- **Hold a Food and/or Toy drive** at your school, workplace, home or place of worship.
- **Create an Angel Tree** - each participant chooses an angel labeled with a gift.
- **Decorate a Specialty Tree** - collect, for example, a food item or colouring books or other toys, etc.

Last Year

- Saw a 5% increase in Christmas Assistance registrations
- Over 12,000 toys and games were distributed to over 1,700 children
- A total of 4,500 people were served by our various Christmas programs and events
- 1,100 volunteers donated 4,427 hours to the Mission's Christmas programs

Toys, books and games for children and teens

- Action figures
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Basketball, soccer balls, etc.
- Board games
- Cars, trucks, boats
- Crayons, colouring books
- Dolls, including Barbie
- Electronic games
- Hockey sticks
- Lego & Duplo building toys
- Puzzles
- Science kits
- Videos, DVD's
- Educational video games
- Infant, Toddler and Pre-school toys
  - Shape sorters - Stacking Rings
  - Puppets - Bath Toys - Musical Toys
  - Children's Educational Videos

Food Items

PACKAGED FOOD:
- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Tea & coffee
- Cookies & biscuits
- Jello & pudding
- Powdered milk
- Power bars
- Cooking oil
- Condiments & seasonings
- Candy & chocolate
- Baby cereal

FROZEN MEAT:
- Chickens
- Hams
- Turkeys
- Halal products

CANNED FOOD:
- Vegetables
- Beans & legumes
- Tomatoes
- Fruit
- Soups
- Apple juice
- Spaghetti sauce

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Johnson leads Texans to upset

Andre Johnson, left, had a career-high 207 yards receiving and a touchdown as the Houston Texans surprised the Tennessee Titans 13-12 yesterday. Tennessee's loss was only its second of the season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Grieving Cassel leads Pats

NFL ROUNDUP

Randy Moss caught two of Matt Cassel's career-high four touchdown passes in his first game against the Raiders since his trade to New England last season, leading the Patriots to a 49-26 victory yesterday.

Cassel's sterling performance just six days after the death of his father kept the Patriots (9-5) in a three-way tie for first place in the AFC East with Miami and the New York Jets. Cassel left the team briefly during the week to be with his family, but looked sharp Sunday.

The Raiders (3-11) fell behind 35-14 less than 18 minutes into the game, allowing the most first-half points against them since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970.

JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Matt Cassel of the New England Patriots threw for 218 yards and a career-high four touchdowns in a 49-26 win over the Oakland Raiders yesterday. Cassel's father died last Monday.

N.Y. JETS 31, BILLS 27

The New York Jets were facing a stinging loss that would have knocked them out of first place in the AFC East and severely damaged their playoff hopes.

Then a bad play call, a big hit and a lucky bounce changed all that in an instant. Abram Elam sacked J.P. Losman from behind and caused a fumble that Shaun Ellis recovered and returned 11 yards for a touchdown with 1:54 remaining as the Jets earned a 31-27 win over the Buffalo Bills yesterday.

The Jets were surprised the Bills were passing in that situation, expecting Buffalo to try to run out the clock. Instead, coach Dick Jauron overruled offensive co-ordinator Turk Schonert.

"Clearly the responsibility for the last call, the play-action pass, that was mine," Jauron said. "That goes right on me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 13 Tampa Bay 10 (OT)
Carolina 30 Denver 10
Cincinnati 20 Washington 13
Houston 13 Tennessee 12
Indianapolis 31 Detroit 21
Jacksonville 20 Green Bay 16
Miami 14 San Francisco 9
Minnesota 35 Arizona 14
New England 49 Oakland 26
N.Y. Jets 31 Buffalo 27
Pittsburgh 13 Baltimore 9
San Diego 22 Kansas City 21
Seattle 23 St. Louis 20
N.Y. Giants at Dallas

THURSDAY'S RESULT
Chicago 27 New Orleans 24 (OT)

TONIGHT'S GAME
Cleveland at Philadelphia

Avery fiasco seems totally out of whack

John Chick
john.chick@metronews.ca

This is how a neophyte could sum up the Sean Avery situation:

In the NHL, saying something stupid to a media scrum will get you suspended six games and lead your team to essentially release you. But if you hit somebody headfirst into the boards from behind (as Tom Kostopoulos did to Mike Van Ryn, causing Van Ryn a concussion) you get exactly half that suspension and not cut.

Obviously it's a little deeper than that. It's clear Avery's teammates didn't want him back, and that was ultimately the reason for his dismissal.

That's fine.

But on another level, the summary is still 100 per cent correct. The hypocrisy of the NHL is one of the many reasons the sport has at times trailed poker and women's college softball in U.S. TV ratings. I'm not calling out Kostopoulos either — his hit wasn't deliberate, but it was arguably careless and did cause serious injury.

Meanwhile, nothing Avery has done — seeing as his persona non grata status is also the result of his laundry list of antics — ever threatened brain damage on another human being.

Let me be clear that I'm not defending what Avery said. At best, it was juvenile, at worst, misogynistic. But give him credit for one thing: He brought an original personality to a sport with few original personalities. Aside from a handful of people — Alex Ovechkin, Jeremy Roenick, Brian Burke and John Tortorella come to mind — you don't see a ton of funny sound bytes coming out of the NHL.

When Avery called out the league for not having stars marketable in the U.S. last summer, of course he was smug and condescending. But he had a point.

It's no secret that the culture of hockey is vastly different from that of any other sport. That culture led Brendan Shanahan to once say there could never be a Dennis Rodman in the NHL.

The Worm was probably an extreme example, but he was absolutely right.

And that's part of the reason why the NHL will continue to toil in the U.S. marketplace during a recession with a national TV deal that doesn't even guarantee it money.

To suspend a player and then have the team get rid of them — for saying something that in any other sport would likely result in a fine and nothing else — may look wonderfully moralistic, but for an entertainment business to play the high horse in a society where prime-time TV features everything from horny teenagers on the upper east side of Manhattan to women opening the bidding on their sexual orientation doesn't wash.

Especially when you are running the only team sports league on the planet where fist-fighting is an encouraged part of the game.

When Ron Artest went into the stands in Detroit four years ago and ignited the brilliantly christened "Malice at the Palace," it was widely viewed as the darkest moment in NBA history.

Yet '70s era video of Mike Milbury going into the stands and beating a fan with his own shoe is today considered hysterical.

The differences in reaction raise some sociological issues I don't have 60 pages to get into, but one aspect of it is clear.

The NHL doesn't have its priorities straight.

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What causes hereditary hair loss?

Each hair grows from a pocket in the skin called the hair follicle. During its growing phase, the follicle has a bulb-shaped bottom, the center of which is called the dermal papilla. The papilla is fed by very small blood vessels, which bring it food & oxygen and remove wastes. The papilla is highly sensitive to hormones and chemicals secreted by the body *(or ingested as a medicine)* which impacts hair growth.

It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

Folic acid: Consult a health care practitioner if you are uncertain whether or not you are taking adequate vitamin B12, as folate supplementation can mask a Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Each BIO-FEN PLUS™ *capsule contains (mg/capsule):*

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Saw palmetto berry extract contains 45% powder, esters & sterols	160 mg
Flax lignans, standardized to 20% secoisolariciresinol diglucoside *(SDG)*	100 mg
D-calcium pantothenate *(Vitamin B5)*	10.40 mg
Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
Riboflavin *(Vitamin B2)*	1.58 mg
Folic acid	0.095 mg
Biotin	400 mcg

Non-medicinal ingredients: inert microcrystalline cellulose and vegetable-based magnesium stearate in a veggie-based capsule.

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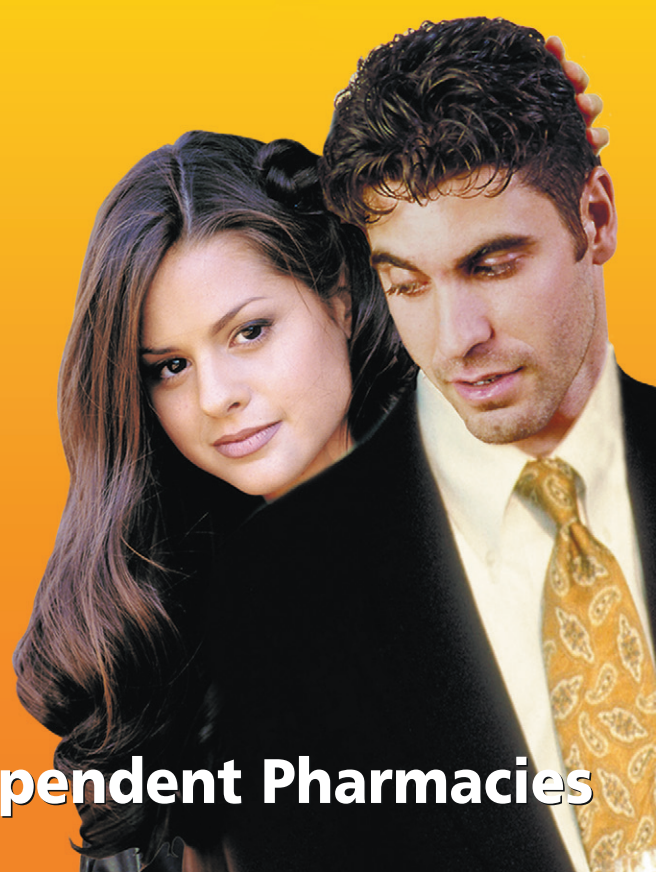

Available at Health Food stores and Independent Pharmacies

One Million Acts of Green hits halfway point

The One Million Acts of Green recently marked a significant milestone, surpassing 500,000 acts of green registered online at www.onemillionactsofgreen.com. This represents a reduction of approximately 25,000,000 kilograms of greenhouse gases. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

Energy saving tips

With government rebates for programmable thermostats you could save almost $100 per year on heating costs, according to Direct Energy. And don't forget your furnace — an annual maintenance and cleaning can extend the life of a furnace by several years and prevent untimely breakdowns this holiday season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

The trouble with Alberta's tarsands

ScienceMatters

David Suzuki & Dr. Faisal Moola

If you want to be scared, you don't need to watch a horror movie or read the latest Stephen King best-seller.

Real terror can be found by simply firing up Google Earth. By mousing over and zooming in, you can see what Alberta's tarsands look like from space.

It is not a pretty sight. In fact, it's scary — and for good reason.

A recent book by celebrated journalist Andrew Nikiforuk, Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent (published by Greystone Books and the David Suzuki Foundation), explores what these grey spots on Google Earth mean to Canada's environment and economy. It's an important book, one that every Canadian should read to find out how the world's largest energy project will affect us.

The scale of the Alberta tarsands project is unprecedented in Canadian history. Alberta's "blue-eyed sheiks," as the oil-industry elite are known, stand to make billions of dollars from carving up northern Alberta in order to meet U.S. demand for oil. But these dollars pale in comparison to the environmental value that is being squandered at the expense of petro dollars.

The main tarsands deposits are at three sites in Alberta: Peace River, Cold Lake, and Athabasca. The Athabasca region contains the largest deposit of crude bitumen in the world.

All this bitumen, a complex mixture of molecules from prehistoric life, is a geological miracle with which Canada has been blessed. But instead of safeguarding this resource, we are using it up. And we are creating an environmental catastrophe that will take centuries to recover from ... if we recover at all.

It's estimated that two tonnes of earth must be excavated to produce one barrel of thick tar-like bitumen. And it requires as much as three barrels of fresh water from the Athabasca River to make one barrel of bitumen. It also takes a huge amount of energy to extract the oil from the sands.

Now think about this: Each day Canada exports 1 million barrels of bitumen to the United States.

With all the money being made from the tarsands, very little of it seems to be reinvested in renewable energy that comes from wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal sources. If anything, we could be investing this money in low-carbon projects so we won't have to pull every bit of bitumen from the ground.

When my children were younger, they'd often ask me about the bogeyman — a mythical evil spirit who would lie in wait under their beds when the lights went out. But maybe the bogeyman isn't some scary creature. Maybe the bogeyman is simply a man in a suit trying to satisfy his shareholders, make a profit, and cosy up to federal politicians so he can continue doing his work without having to answer to his environmental crimes.

Or maybe there's something more frightening to consider. Perhaps the bogeyman is us — the public that places the short-term economic value of the tarsands above the priceless value of our environment and our health.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

Canada labelled a 'Colossal Fossil'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Jim Prentice

Canada wrapped up negotiations at a United Nations climate conference Friday with a promise to keep climate change at the top of its agenda, even as it was dubbed the most obstructionist country at the summit.

"People are quite concerned about this and they've made it clear that they want to see this as a priority, and so the government is addressing it as such," Environment Minister Jim Prentice said Friday in a conference call with Canadian reporters from Poznan, Poland.

"The economic circumstances are certainly important, but what we're talking about crafting is an international protocol that will reduce carbon emissions and withstand many economic up cycles and down cycles."

The federal government, he said, will do two things: Be a "constructive player" in the international negotiations leading up to a conference in Copenhagen next year; and pursue the possibilities of a North American cap-and-trade system with the U.S.

Canada has come under pressure during the conference from Canadian environmental groups, who claim officials have been obstructionist at the talks, focusing on reducing greenhouse gases through intensity-based targets rather than on the Kyoto Protocol's absolute reduction targets.

On Friday, Canada was named the most obstructive country at the UN climate negotiations, winning a total of 10 "Colossal Fossil" awards. The dubious distinction came from Climate Action Network International, a group that includes more than 400 non-governmental organizations.

"Canada played a shameful role here in Poznan, as this 'prize' confirms," said Dave Martin of Greenpeace Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EU plan to cut greenhouse gases

- Highlights of a deal European Union leaders sealed Friday on an ambitious plan to curb the greenhouse gases that cause global warming:

GOAL: To cut EU emissions by at least 20 per cent and raise use of renewable energy to 20 per cent by 2020. The emissions cut will reach 30 per cent if a global climate change accord is reached.

HOW: The EU's "cap-and-trade" program — in which industries buy or sell emission "credits" — will be expanded to cover several greenhouse gases, not just carbon dioxide.

PRICE TAG: Major polluters will eventually pay some $66 billion US a year in emissions trading charges. Governments are to use this money to encourage clean energy development. The cost of the pollution permits will hike electricity prices by up to 15 per cent. Household bills would rise more slowly, by an average of $198 US a year by 2020.

RENEWABLES: Wind, solar and energy crops must account for 20 per cent of EU energy use by 2020, up from 8.5 per cent today, saving 900 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dispute on carbon tax mars UN climate talks

A UN climate conference closed Saturday in contention over a proposal to raise what could amount to billions of dollars for poor countries by levying a tax on carbon trading among the world's wealthy nations.

The final post-midnight session ended nine hours after the conference had been due to close.

"There's a lot of anger and frustration among the developing countries."
Kim Carstensen, WWF director

It exposed a deep rift between developing countries most vulnerable to global warming and the industrial nations that are being asked to channel money and technology for the defence against climate catastrophes.

The reality of global warming "is families that lose their home, communities that lose drinking water, farmers that lose their livelihood and children that remain orphans after a hurricane," Costa Rican delegate Christiana Figueres said in the closing hours of the meeting.

The confrontation climaxed a meeting that began Dec. 1 with limited expectations and ended with few achievements.

The conference was the midway point in a two-year negotiation intended to produce a new climate treaty to control emissions of greenhouse gases after 2012, when the current Kyoto Protocol expires.

The UN's top climate official, Yvo de Boer, acknowledged the talks "caused some bitterness."

At the same time, he said, they signalled the start of hardcore negotiations on the final shape of the accord, due to be completed in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"There's a lot of anger and frustration among the developing countries," said Kim Carstensen, the climate change director for WWF International.

The conference, he said, "was a waste of time."

Developing countries proposed a 2 per cent tax on all transactions of the carbon market, which could become one of the world's richest commodity markets if the U.S. creates a national cap-and-trade system as promised by U.S. president-elect Barack Obama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Brunswick economic stimulus plan focuses on college investments
The New Brunswick government rolled out the first in a series of new capital investments intended to stimulate the economy. Post Secondary Education is the focus of significant investments, including a $35-million community college in Edmundston and nearly $45-million worth of community college facilities in Saint John. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Keeping income

Post-secondary students in Ontario on social assistance will get to keep any employment income they earn, according to the provincial government's new anti-poverty strategy released last week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

From Space Invaders to NASA

OddJobs

Diane Peters

When his parents said he couldn't play Space Invaders, Arn Hyndman programmed his own version of the game.

Recently, Arn Hyndman drove from Toronto to Ottawa with a work colleague for a meeting. As research and development technologists with Nortel Networks (the company calls them architects), the two didn't chat about the company's stock price or office gossip, they riffed on ideas.

"We were just shooting the breeze. We're inspired by challenges that we see ourselves in the world around us," Hyndman says. They came up with 10 different ideas for possible new technology projects.

It isn't just idle talk. They'll eventually get to make some of these ideas happen.

Hyndman, who's now 37, began inventing technology a young teen on Vancouver Island. His parents declared video games like Space Invaders off limits so, using the family's rudimentary computer, Hyndman designed his own version of the popular game.

It wasn't perfect, but it kept him and his friends amused for awhile. He kept writing programs and then studied computer science at the University of British Columbia. He was eventually hired as a junior developer at Nortel in Ottawa. The company helped finance his masters in software engineering (he minored in human computer interaction) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

There, he and his classmates solved a problem for NASA: There was a six-second delay between moving the joystick of the remote control for the lunar rover and the thing actually moving, so astronauts would over-steer and even crash it. Hyndman helped invent a new monitor that would predict where the rover would go in real time.

"We throw around ideas all the time."
Arn Hyndman

Back at Nortel, Hyndman went on to get patents for various inventions: One that helps compatibility between network devices and their management system, and another that enables you to ID yourself while using a wireless device so you can login or make purchases.

Currently, he's chief architect on a project called web.alive. It will allow people to talk on the web using live voice and 3-D avatars. An alternative to video conferencing, its main use will be for virtual business meetings.

Hyndman spends his days working on the project in numerous ways. He sometimes observes people using web.alive — other Nortel staff and outsiders — to see where it needs work. He runs a lot of problem-solving meetings where he and the developers on his team brainstorm ways to fix flaws in the interface.

And, during coffee breaks and over lunch and in the hallways, he chats with other architects — there are about 20 at Nortel — about technology problems and possible solutions for fixing them.

"We just throw around ideas all the time."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Salary: $100,00 to $200,000
Education: A degree in computer science or computer engineering
Best part of the job: "Coming up with an idea and seeing it realized."
Worst part of the job: "About 30 per cent of the way into a project, you get 90 per cent of the idea working. Then there's a long curve of polishing and drudgery."

Stress relief a must in today's workplace

ECONOMY With the economy and world the way it is today, many are realizing the need for stress relief on the job. Beth McRae for instance realized that her stress levels were rising and affecting the people around her, including the employees of her public relations firm.

"All hell was breaking loose, and I realized, wow, this is an epidemic of stress and that I needed to take better care of myself," said McRae, whose company, The McRae Agency, has offices in Scottsdale, Ariz., and San Diego.

McRae, deciding not to let the tension and anxiety get the better of her, began a routine of prayer, meditation, yoga and focusing on improving her company. She is one of many small business owners who are responding to the stresses of today's economy by taking better care of themselves and their companies.

Some are driving a few more golf balls.

Bretton Holmes had brought some golf clubs and a golf simulator into his media relations firm, just to be able to do something physical during a workday. "Then I realized it was having a stress-reduction effect as well," he said.

"I think everyone's stress is up," said Holmes, president of Holmes Worldwide Media. "Every time we hear the ball being whacked in the other room, we say, 'Somebody had a bad (phone) call.'"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Water Cooler Gossip offers guidance on life after graduation

McMaster University's Career Services has launched a student-written blog called Water Cooler Gossip, which follows the academic life of Michael Pelt in his last year as an undergraduate student at the university. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Creatively leading creative people

Keeping morale and productivity high within creative departments can pose a challenge, particularly in the current economic environment. A new survey of design professionals outlines the most essential traits for today's creative leaders, as well as specific actions firms can take to retain creative staff and prepare them to assume greater responsibility.

Some highlights include:

- **OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND ADAPTABILITY** were cited as two of the most valuable traits of a creative manager, surpassing traditional attributes such as patience and loyalty.
- **MORE THAN FOUR OUT OF 10** (44 per cent) respondents rated their leaders "fair" or "poor" at developing work environments that support risk-taking and exploration.
- **ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT** of respondents said "doing more with fewer resources" will be the greatest priority for creative leaders in the coming year.
- **LESS THAN HALF OF** respondents said their firms are taking steps to identify and prepare staff members to move into managerial roles. The report, Profile of the New Creative Leader, was developed by The Creative Group.

"Effective leadership skills change in relation to the challenges teams face," said Megan Slabinski, executive-director of The Creative Group. "Our goal with this project was to explore which traits are most necessary in the current environment, as well as how those qualities are being cultivated within creative organizations."

"Our goal with this project was to explore which traits are most necessary in the current environment, as well as how those qualities are being cultivated within creative organizations."
Megan Slabinski,
executive-director of The Creative Group.

ADAPTABILITY

As business needs fluctuate and companies shift strategies, creative leaders must be able to adapt and help team members do the same. Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents rated open-mindedness and adaptability among the top five traits most desired in a creative leader.

These attributes surpassed more traditional qualities such as patience and loyalty, which were cited by 11 per cent and eight per cent of those polled, respectively. When it comes to the challenges creative leaders face, finding time to strategize versus attending to day-to-day tasks ranked at the top with 47 per cent of the response.

THE TRAINING GAP

The research also suggested that while many creative professionals want the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, few employers offer adequate training. More than half (55 per cent) of respondents rated their firms only "fair" or "poor" at providing leadership training.

Companies may hold back on training because they haven't identified the right person to invest in.

According to the research, many organizations lack succession plans and don't actively groom future leaders. Consequently, more than half (52 per cent) of respondents said they weren't confident someone could fill their shoes if they had to step down from their position.

MOTIVATING ON A BUDGET

The research demonstrated that simple acknowledgement of strong work can go a long way toward keeping staff motivated: Communicating successes to upper management (74 per cent) and providing recognition at staff meetings or via company newsletters (61 per cent) ranked among the most effective ways to acknowledge employee achievements, above perks such as paid time off (44 per cent) or gift certificates (20 per cent).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Apotex suit against University of Toronto researcher 'attacks academic freedom'
The Canadian Association of University Teachers says a lawsuit launched by generic drug maker Apotex Inc. against University of Toronto clinician Nancy Olivieri is "a blatant attack upon academic freedom." METRO NEWS SERVICES

No more pharma for med students

There may soon be no more free lunches — or fridges to store them in — in the student lounges of Canadian medical schools.

No talks given by physicians' experts paid handsomely by pharmaceutical companies. Or unsupervised meetings with drug reps.

The association that represents Canada's medical schools announced Tuesday it is endorsing the principles that lie at the core of rules such as these introduced by its American counterpart earlier this year.

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada said the aim is to limit the influence the pharmaceutical industry has on medical students and residents and assuage the public's concerns about the perceived cosiness between medical schools and Big Pharma.

"There's no question that the environment within which you're trained will have some sort of impact on the way you perceive these issues," Irving Gold, the association's vice-president of government relations and external affairs, said from Ottawa.

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada is aiming to limit the influence the pharmaceutical industry has on medical students.

"The public has to trust that the doctors that they see do not have any debts to pay to individual pharmaceutical companies or the sector as a whole.

"We have to model good behaviour in this context. And if we want to teach professionalism (to medical students), a part of teaching professionalism is by implementing these sorts of policies."

The board of the association voted in mid-November to endorse the principles espoused in the April 2008 report from the Association of American Medical Colleges. It made public that decision on Tuesday after having informed Rx&D, the industry group representing Canada's research-based pharmaceutical companies.

There have been complaints for years that some members of the medical community have been too close to the pharmaceutical industry. Critics have railed at pharma for providing expensive gifts and freebies to doctors, whether in the form of tickets to sporting events or invitations to educational sessions held at posh resorts where an ample measure of pleasure was mixed in with a bit of business.

In recent years professional bodies have adopted codes of conduct aimed at stopping this type of behaviour, though critics contend there are still plenty of doctors eating plenty of free lunches.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

South of the border

- The U.S. report urged medical schools to bar drug and medical device manufacturers from offering gifts to students and faculty. It suggested faculty and students should be banned from accepting so-called "ghostwriting" services — where someone else writes a paper under the recipient's name.

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A cerebral partnership
Neuroscientists from the University of Western Ontario and Queen's and York Universities have partnered to form the Canadian Action and Perception Network (CAPnet), a major neuroscience research initiative. METRO NEWS SERVICES

College & University 2009

A lot of talk goes a long way

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

When Francis Broun was an undergraduate, he swore if he ever became a teacher, he would never bore his students like so many of his professors did him.

Now, after teaching for more than 30 years, the Ontario College of Art and Design professor's commitment to excitement has garnered him a Top 20 spot in TVO's 2009 Big Ideas Best Lecturer Competition, making him the first OCAD teacher to be nominated for the honour.

"Here I am. I'm probably the oldest person in this place pulling down my pension and still somehow the students really enjoy what I do," says Broun, who has taught in OCAD's Faculty of Liberal Studies since 1991.

Before OCAD, Scottish-born Broun worked for 15 years in the Art Gallery of Ontario's education department and continues to host private lectures at the Women's Art Association of Canada. But whether he's lecturing to students or elderly ladies, he says he does the exact same thing.

"I don't use academic language in a way, which I think helps the students. First of all, I don't understand what most of the words mean myself so I talk in a fairly straightforward way," he says. "Plus, I can't do anything else. I've had several other careers and it's always come down to this, because I think I'm just a talkaholic."

He maintains humour and that seems to be what his students seem to enjoy most about his lectures ("I'm not a stuffy old fart," he quips,) Broun adds he really tries to encourage them to travel to the source of the art they study.

"Most of them have never been to Europe or to the Louvre or one of the other great galleries to look at the real thing," he says. "Until you're standing nose to nose with the real thing, it's just never the same somehow. Experience is everything in this business."

Nadia Carretta heard her former professor's message loud and clear.

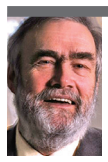
"Francis is the epitome of wisdom because he has all the education but he uses application of actually going to these places all over Europe too," says the third year OCAD curatorial and criticism practices student. "I think that's what he really wants to try and get across — you have to combine the two or else we're just kind of like book nerds and that's about it."

Carretta will travel to Italy to study art history next semester. She credits Broun, who provided recommendation and reference letters for her, with going above and beyond to help her overseas pursuit.

"He set me up with another professor — one of his colleagues who lives there. That was the biggest thing a professor has ever done for me."

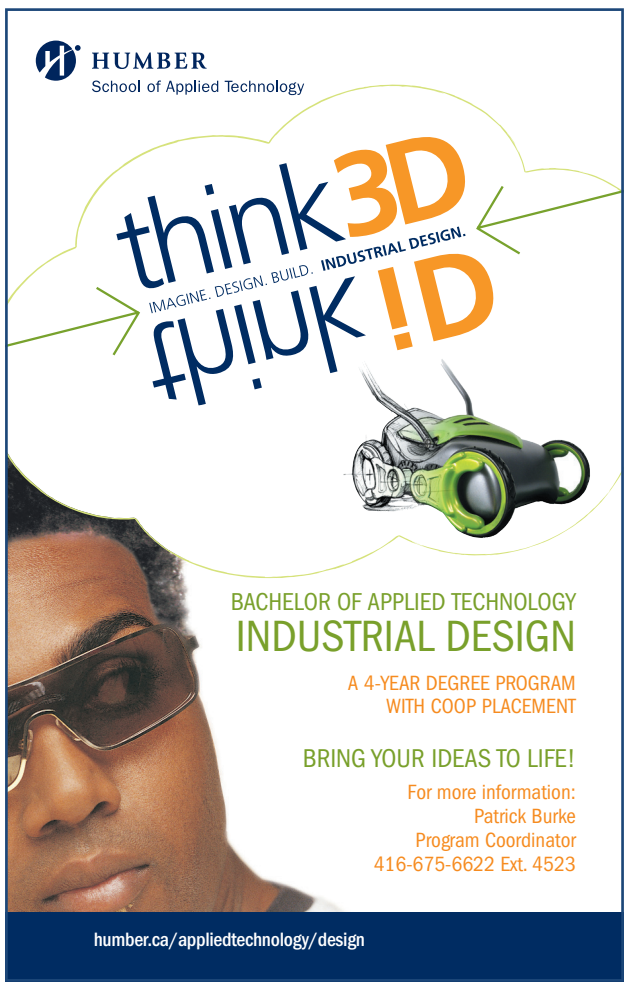
Coming soon

- In February of next year, a three-person jury will whittle 20 lecturers down to 10, who will compete for the Best Lecturer title in the spring.



"I think I'm just a talkaholic."
OCAD lecturer Francis Broun

Above is a flyer itemizing when you can see Francis Broun lecture.



MICHAEL PHANG PHOTO
Francis Broun garnered a Top 20 spot in TVO's 2009 Big Ideas Best Lecturer Competition.

Getting through the pitfalls of a mature education

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Starting post-secondary education as a mature student comes with a thick pile of potential pitfalls, but handling them well can turn negatives into positives.

Scott Cowan, vice-president of York University's YUMSO (Your University Mature Students Organization), says mature students tend to be there to upgrade skills or for the love of learning. Cowan, who is also linked with the Atkinson Centre for Mature and Part-time Students, he say a common pitfall not accounting for the time required outside of the classroom.

"There's a need to realize the demands of course loads at university," he says. "It is quite a change."

Going from a steady income to no or low income, while at the same time spending big money on tuition and text books, can come as a shock. Plan your finances out well in advance, Cowan says, and remember it's a temporary measure.

Family pressures can be hard, especially on single parents. "It's a challenge for them to maintain their current role as parent and add the new role of student," Cowan says. On the plus side, familial support can help you excel.

"It's a challenge for them to maintain their current role as parent and add the new role of student."
Scott Cowan

Mature students will also be asked repeatedly why they've returned to education. Have a clear, set answer, Cowan says; it will also act as a focusing mantra for the student.

Academic skills may have grown rusty since the student was last in education. There are support groups on most campuses to help with writing, note-taking and research skills — use them.

Making friends can be hard, especially if it means "crossing the age divide."

"If you're 20 years older than the next person, there's a different way of looking at things," Cowan says, but there are pluses to connecting with younger students. "When mature students' voices are heard in the classroom, the variety of perspectives and life experiences contributes a lot."

Janet Patten was recently "restructured" out of her job after eight years as a graphic designer and went back to school to improve her career prospects. She's studying public relations at CompuCollege in Halifax.

"I've done it a couple of times now, so I'm used to it," she says. Patten dropped out of a fine arts degree after high school and worked clerical jobs. She took a secretarial course and did that for eight years before returning to finish her degree.

"I do a lot better" than younger students, she laughs.

"I'm not distracted by other things. There are distractions, but I'm more serious about it, more focused and know what I want more. I'm there to learn, not to socialize."

Dark Knight sets DVD record
The Dark Knight has set a new record after DVD sales soared to nearly 3 million in the U.S., Canada and Britain — three days after its release Tuesday. The Batman film has so far grossed more than $996 million US worldwide. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment

Oscar host
Actor Hugh Jackman will be the host of the 2009 Academy Awards, organizers have announced.
BBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Renaissance man

Q-Tip's latest album a refreshing throwback to old-school hip hop

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

It's taken Q-Tip nine years to release The Renaissance, the follow up to his 1999 solo debut Amplified.

"I haven't been sitting around doing nothing, I promise," says the Queens, New York rapper best known as one third of eternally cool, legendary '90s hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest. "I'm always in the studio. Always."

The reason we haven't heard the fruits of this recording labour is, as Tip nonchalantly puts it, he's been "going though a couple of things with record labels." More specifically, Arista shelved his original sophomore effort Kamaal the Abstract, claiming it was too obscure and not commercial enough. But that was the past, and last month, the man who was born Jonathan Davis finally had a new product to push.

"I was a little bit nervous," admits the 37-year-old about coming out with an album after almost a decade. "But I liked (the music) and I feel like people trust me for my taste."

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

The Renaissance is the followup to Q-Tip's 1999 solo debut Amplified.

His taste has lately been veering to older greats such as Stevie Wonder, Prince, Miles Davis and The Clash, rather than what's rotating on the radio.

As a result, The Renaissance, a mix of his signature smooth nasal flow over jazzy beats and live instruments is a refreshing throwback to a purer time in hip hop. It's mellow, but with enough boom bat to get your head bobbing.

The lyrics, however — dealing with war, the economy and even including excerpts taken from one of Barack Obama's speeches — are very now. He says it's serendipitous that The Renaissance, was released on the same day Obama was elected president.

"We have a socio-political renaissance with this new president, and I feel like we're in the middle of an artistic renaissance," Tip excitedly rattles off his theory. "People are looking for more value in their music, in literature, in film, theater, just all across, people are looking for taste. And the reason why is because the Internet has leveled the playing field, and shown everybody the different permutations of things. And because of that, people's tastes are starting to get better, cooler and they're finding interesting things. It's a great time," he says coming up for air. "And I'm just happy to be able to offer this now."

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to Media By Numbers LLC.:

1. **The Day the Earth Stood Still:** $31 million US
2. **Four Christmases:** $13.3 million
3. **Twilight:** $8 million
4. **Bolt:** $7.5 million
5. **Australia:** $4.3 million
6. **Quantum of Solace:** $3.8 million
7. **Nothing Like the Holiday:** $3.5 million
8. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** $3.3 million
9. **Milk:** $2.6 million
10. **Transporter 3:** $2.3 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-Idol producer answers Abdul

TV Former American Idol producer Nigel Lythgoe has fired back at criticism by Paula Abdul that the show put her in peril by allowing an alleged stalker to audition.

"You do not take somebody in that room that you believe is a danger to herself or a danger to Paula. That would not enter our heads," he said.

Abdul, one of the Idol judges, has claimed that producers knew Paula Goodspeed had stalked her, and allowed her to audition anyway.

Idol may axe charity show

TV For two years, American Idol was giving back. Now it may be taking back.

The Fox network's Jill Hudson isn't commenting on a report from an Idol fan website that the annual Idol Gives Back charity event has been cancelled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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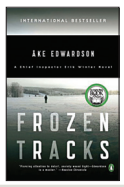
Stone tackles a new leader

Filmmaker Oliver Stone's next movie will be a documentary about Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. Stone has already started work on the film, which he kicked off after visiting the leader back in February. **IMDB.COM**

Acclaimed crime novelist back with bizarre tale

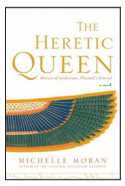
BookPicks



Frozen **Tracks**

Author: Åke Edwardson
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Price: $16.50 (Paperback)

Acclaimed Swedish detective fiction writer Åke Edwardson returns with Frozen Tracks, his third novel to win the Best Swedish Crime Novel Award from the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy. Frozen Tracks revives Edwardson's topically named Detective Erik Winter character, who is taxed with connecting two sets of contrasting crimes in the southwestern Swedish city of Gothenburg. By day, a stranger is luring nursery children with candy to his car, before they return, visibly unharmed; while by night, university students are being brutally attacked and left with the same weapon mark. Winter must solve the bizarre trends while trying not to let his own tie to the crimes influence his judgment.



The Heretic **Queen**

Author: Michelle Moran
Publisher: Crown Publishers
Price: $27.95 (Hardcover)

A palace fire in Ancient Egypt symbolizes the end of an empire and the start of a new one in American author Michelle Moran's sophomore novel, The Heretic Queen. Nefertari is the only person to survive the blaze that killed the royal family of the Eighteenth Dynasty. The niece of Nefertiti, the former queen, should enjoy a natural progression to power but publicly held opinion about her aunt as a heretic stops the girl in her tracks. When she falls in love with Ramesses II, crown prince of the respected court of Pharaoh Seti I, new and old ways clash as Nefertari struggles to find solace among the public and her peers.

Doors **Open**

Author: Ian Rankin
Publisher: McArthur & Company
Price: $24.95 (Paperback)

Where idle time meets the urge for a thrill, you'll find Mike Mackenzie. But instead of taking up a hobby or charity he opts to enter the criminal world to perform art heists, with his eyes particularly set on the National Gallery of Scotland. A career in crime doesn't seem too daunting at first, as he and two confidants manoeuvre to pillage and subsequently persuade of the crimes' nonexistence. But inexperienced in the illegal, Mackenzie soon discovers heists can land you in hot water. Doors Open, by acclaimed Scottish writer Ian Rankin, originally appeared in serial publication in the New York Times.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

Little Joy mixes musical eras

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

HANDOUT

Little Joy concocted songs for their self-titled debut using offbeat instruments.

Little Joy describe themselves as one of the most laid-back bands around.

Formed in a non-descript dive bar in L.A. by musicians on a break from their day jobs, the whole project has the breezy air of Mai Tais under pink tropical sunsets.

"At first we didn't mean to do an album, but we thought we'd better look at what we had, and started recording … And now I'm sitting in a van eating a cup of noodles," said singer-guitarist Rodrigo Amarante. "In California, there's really not a lot of obligations, except fun and relaxation. I hope that comes out (in the album)."

After a chance encounter at a music festival a couple years ago, Amarante moved in with Strokes drummer Fabrizio Moretti (who plays many instruments in Little Joy) and his girlfriend, singer-songwriter Binki Shapiro. As Amarante, whose main gig is with Brazilian rockers Los Hermanos, describes it, Little Joy concocted songs using offbeat instruments like a ukulele-sounding tenor guitar, all in the shadow of "palm trees and beer."

Recorded to low-fi equipment, the resulting self-titled album is cinematic in the sense of Beirut's music — but rather than an imagined Eastern European homeland, it recalls imagery from a sepia-toned, rum-soaked Caribbean holiday. While the band didn't turn to old films or Hemingway anecdotes for inspiration, Amarante said they did conceive of the songs as stories.

"We treated this group of songs like a movie that doesn't exist, except in our heads. That helped us develop some of the lyrics and characters in the songs," he said. "At other times we would use lyrics to (talk about) the past of a character in another (song)."

With a palette that touches on folk, reggae and Strokes-y garage rock, the band picked and chose arrangements from different musical eras. The tropical pop of The Next Time Around and Brand New Start express cheery takes on love, while Play the Part is a quiet acoustic strummer. The first English song Amarante ever wrote, How to Hang a Warhol, is more than a jokey autobiographical tune to friends back home. It also captures the band's philosophy.

"The lyrics came from a joke where people back in Brazil thought I got Americanized, so I wanted to write the most American thing I could," he said. "The song is about just doing it — having dreams and doing well, but at the same time accepting yourself and what you like to do."

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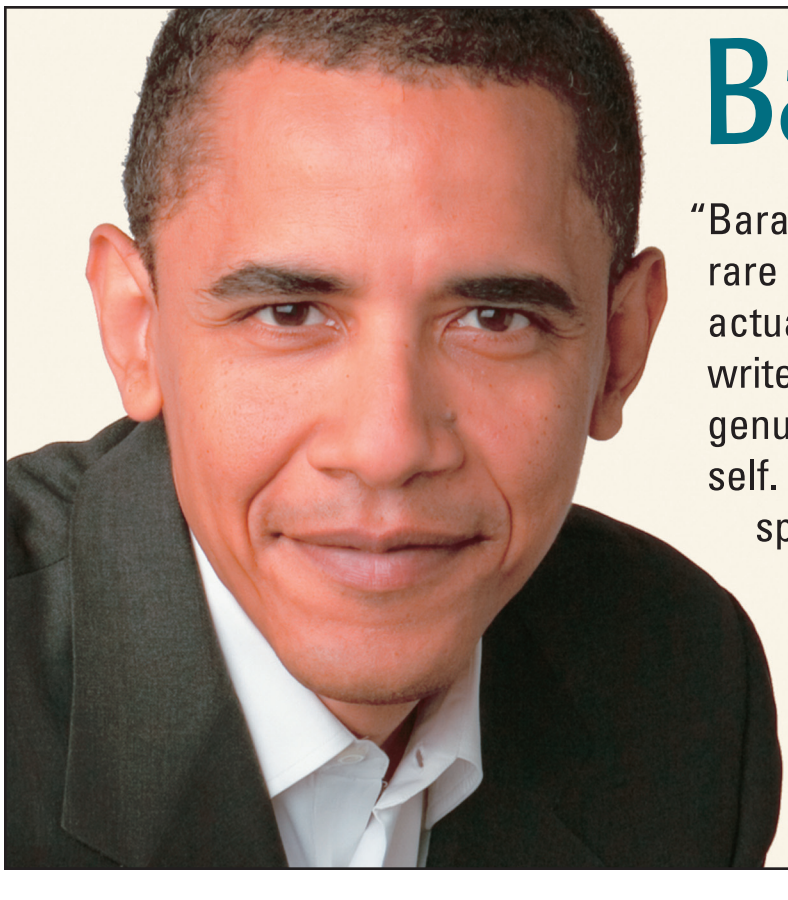
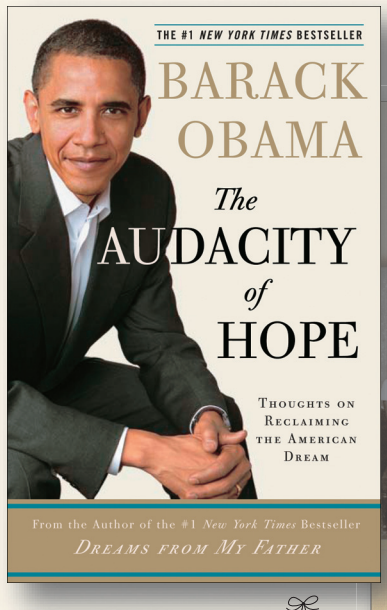
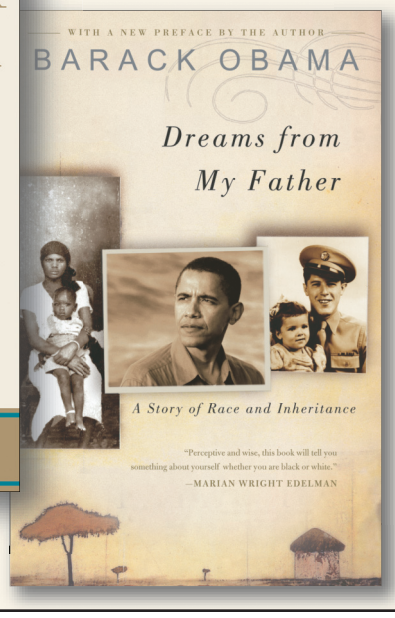


Barack is a Bestseller!

"Barack Obama is that rare politician who can actually write– and write movingly and genuinely about himself. . . . He often speaks to the reader as if he were an old friend from back in the day."
—New York Times





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Books Gifts

Bettie Page dead
Bettie Page, the 1950s-era pin-up model, died Thursday night at a Los Angeles hospital, nine days after suffering a heart attack. She was 85. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Pack lunch in a celebrity design for charity

Mario Batali is doing it. So are Gwyneth Paltrow and Salman Rushdie.

These and other celebrities from the culinary, entertainment and literary worlds are donating one-of-a-kind lunchboxes they designed to help raise money for the hungry.

The boxes are being sold online at thelunchboxauction.org until midnight Thursday. Bidding starts at $100 US.

Cameron Diaz, for example, offers a green concoction. One side depicts remnants of an environmental friendly lunch of whole foods and a metal fork. The other side shows a wasteful lunch: Paper, plastic fork and cup, and a juice box.

Each of the boxes is signed by the artist.

They will benefit Food Bank for New York City and The Lunchbox Fund, which provides lunch to impoverished schoolchildren in South Africa.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gwyneth Paltrow

Magazine to print Twain essay

NEW YORKER It only took 100 years or so, but the world is finally getting a piece of Mark Twain's mind on the subject of free expression and whether it's safer for your words to be expressed after you're dead.

"We have charity for what the dead say. We may disapprove of what they say, but we do not insult them, we do not revile them, as knowing they cannot now defend themselves. If they should speak, what revelations there would be!" Twain observed in The Privilege of the Grave, an essay written in 1905, and long unpublished, that will appear in the issue of The New Yorker that comes out today. "Now there is hardly one of us but would dearly like to reveal these secrets of ours; we know we cannot do it in life, then why not do it from the grave, and have the satisfaction of it?"

The essay is part of the Mark Twain archive at the University of California-Berkeley. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Trust aims to save dead poet's home

REMEMBRANCE A fundraising drive is underway to save the eastern Ontario home of Canadian poet Al Purdy, who died in 2000 at the age of 81.

Jean Baird of Vancouver, the wife of poet George Bowering, established a trust in July to raise $1 million to preserve the home in Ameliasburgh, Ont.

Baird says thousands of dollars have been raised toward the $1 million goal and the effort is supported by many well known poets and academics.

Baird says the trust funds will be used to restore the home, on Roblin Lake near Belleville, as a writers' retreat.

In May, a three-metre tall black bronze statue of Purdy was unveiled at the Ontario legislature. Purdy was often described as Canada's national poet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Skywalker's light sabre takes $240,000 at Hollywood auction

AUCTION Luke Skywalker's light sabre has been on Star Wars fans' Christmas lists for more than 30 years.

On Thursday, one fan spent $240,000 to get the real thing: The prop that Mark Hamill used in the first two movies in the original Star Wars trilogy.

The light sabre highlighted several Hollywood memorabilia sold at an auction in Los Angeles by Profiles in History. The auction house said it sold about $3.5 million in memorabilia. The droid helmet worn by Anthony Daniels to play C-3PO sold for $120,000, and the costume Marlon Brando wore in the Superman movie went for $72,000.

The first British edition of You Only Live Twice inscribed by Ian Fleming sold for $84,000.

A handwritten screenplay by Roald Dahl sold for $96,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

C-3PO helmet.

Reporter's blog on workers' revolt turns into book

IN PRINT A Washington Post reporter's blog about the six-day occupation of a shuttered Chicago factory will be turned into a book, tentatively titled Revolt on Goose Island.

The book, by Chicago-based writer Kari Lydersen, is expected to be released in early 2009. Publisher Melville House will post reports on their website, mhpbooks.com.

"By posting Kari's dispatches as a kind of a first draft, we can keep the story in the news while benefiting from a lively and interactive online readership," Melville House publisher Dennis Johnson said in a statement.

Earlier last week, workers agreed to a $1.75-million US settlement that ended their occupation, which had become a symbol of labour's plight nationwide.

About 200 of 240 laid-off workers began their sit-in after Chicago's Republic Windows & Doors plant gave them just three days' notice that it was closing.

The workers had argued that Republic violated federal law because employees were not given 60 days' notice. They vowed to stay until they received assurances they would get severance and accrued vacation pay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cruise's son appears in Seven Pounds

Actor Tom Cruise's son Connor makes an appearance in Will Smith's new movie Seven Pounds. Smith reportedly suggested the idea while his friend Cruise was reading through the script of the new drama. **IMDB.COM**

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Judge jails man who offered drugs to singer

A judge in London, England, on Friday jailed a man who sold a newspaper footage that appeared to show Amy Winehouse taking drugs.

Johnny Blagrove and his girlfriend Cara Burton admitted offering to supply drugs, including cocaine and ecstasy, to the singer and other celebrities.

Judge Tudor Owen ordered Blagrove, 34, jailed for two years. Burton, 22, received two years' community service.

Prosecutors say the pair covertly filmed Winehouse at a party and sold the footage to Britain's The Sun newspaper for $75,000 US. In January, the paper published the images, which appeared to show the singer smoking crack cocaine and snorting a substance from a card.

Detectives decided there was not enough evidence to charge Winehouse because it could not be proved what the substances were. But they charged the couple with offering to supply drugs.

Police who raided Blagrove and Burton's home found a list of celebrities they planned to film taking drugs, including Winehouse. The judge said there was no evidence they actually sold the singer drugs — a fact that saved them from longer sentences.

Notwithstanding what is clearly visible in the video, there is no evidence of drugs being supplied or even used," Owen said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Johnny Blagrove and his girlfriend Cara Burton admitted offering to supply drugs to singer Amy WInehouse.

Boss memorabilia returns to Jersey

Springsteen

MUSIC The Boss' stuff is back.

More than 1,100 pieces of Bruce Springsteen memorabilia have been returned to the Asbury Park Public Library in New Jersey after library officials filed a police complaint against the men who had taken out the items.

Members of the Friends of the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection took hundreds of books, articles and tour programs to be microfilmed in 2007.

The group says they, not the library, own the stuff. The library disagrees.

But the Friends group returned the materials after the police complaint was filed Tuesday against two members.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Oscars tap Jackman

IntelleVision

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AND THE WINNER IS: After years of labouring to produce the least watchable two-plus hours of television a top-flight group of industry professionals can put together with the biggest stars in the business at their fingertips, the people behind the Oscars have decided to do an about-face on their long-standing policy on hosts and hire a movie star whose biggest role is in a comic book franchise, and whose latest big-budget epic flopped in the theatres.

There will be no Billy Crystal or Steve Martin or Whoopi Goldberg striving but failing to goose some pacing into the glamourous torpor that is the Academy Awards this February. After rumours of a big change in the works, the show's producers announced that Hugh Jackman would be their choice to host the 81st Academy Awards.

"He also has style, elegance and a sense of occasion," the show's producers, Bill Condon and Laurence Mark, said in a joint statement on Friday. "Hugh is the ideal choice to host a celebration of the year's movies — and to have fun doing it."

Jackman had better also have a cattle prod to move along long-winded winners and one hand on the volume knob of the space-time continuum to quicken the show's pace as it inevitably bogs down along the time-honoured Via Dolorosa of musical numbers, awards presentations and forelock-tugging tributes to the industry's long-expired golden age.

NOTHING TO GIVE: The people behind American Idol have decided to forget about the show's charitable fundraiser, Idol Gives Back, for at least this upcoming season, apparently concerned that viewers would be clutching their pocket books tighter during a recession.

"There will be no Idol Gives Back," was the curt summation in an internal memo issued after a meeting of Fox's programming council, and leaked on *mjsbigblog.com*, an unofficial Idol web site, last week.

Also rumoured was fewer open-call audition episodes, the return of Wild Card Week, and more Hollywood semi-finals, in addition to an expansion of the finalists to 36 from 24, and more behind-the-scenes footage of the contestants, injecting more reality and less talent show into Idol.

GETTY IMAGE

Actor Hugh Jackman.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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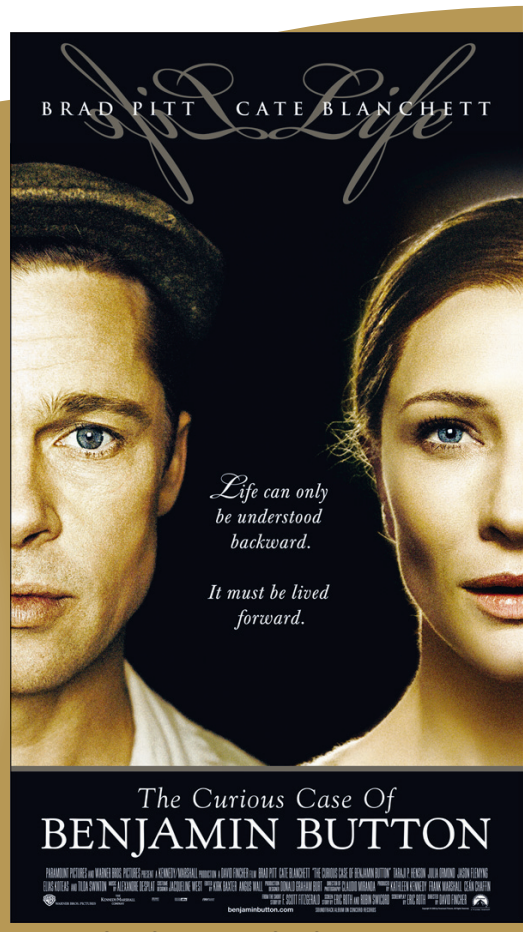

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/15/08	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team "York"		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		To Build a Nation		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "Duality" (N)		My Own Worst Enemy		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Grinch-C'mas	Frosty	The Border (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Rita Rocks	Rita Rocks	Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	How I Met	How I Met	Worst Week	Final 24		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Le Temps des bio-maître		*Hélas pour moi* (1992, Drame), Bernard Verly			Canada	Croisée
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends	Foreign Domes
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Davey and Goliath's Snowbrd		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "Duality" (N)		My Own Worst Enemy		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	I Want a Dog-Charlie Brown		20/20 More than 100 students audition for a show. (N)				News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Two/Half Men	Samantha Who	Stargate Atlantis		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		The Boomer Century 1946-2046 (HDTV)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Royal Riders (N)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				Cash Flow		American Greed		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Darts World Premier League.				Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown		NFL Football Cleveland Browns at Philadelphia Eagles. (HDTV) (Live)					
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Pilot Guides		Mantracker		Departures "Thailand"		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	*Merry Christmas*		*Scrooged* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.				Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Friends	Will & Grace	what's cooking		*Under the Mistletoe* (2006, Drama) Jaime Ray Newman.				Shopping Bags
	570	580	29	MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Live in the Lot: Fall Out Boy		MuchTopTens		On Set: T.I.	The NewMusic	MuchVibe
	615	520	31	A&E	Intervention		Intervention "Tom"		Intervention "Janet" (N)		Manhunters	Manhunters	The First 48
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro		Distretto Di Polizia		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed		Where You At	Back In	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget
	575	583	38	CMT	Donner Down	The Gift	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
	616	521	39	SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		And They Danced		White Boots	Rumpelzwitter	Dance Atlantic	Dance With Me	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Under Covers"		Battle 360		Underworld Histories		NCIS "Under Covers"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham: Arguing		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My First Place	Home to Stay	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*A Walk to Remember* ★★ (2002, Romance) Shane West.				Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Three Can Play That Game* (2008, Romance-Comedy)				Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Star Trek "Shore Leave"		Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains		Eureka		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	The Hills	After Show	MTV News	Cribs	Super Sweet	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Prime Minister	May to Dec	*I'll Be Home for Christmas* ★ (1998, Comedy)				Origins-C'mas
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	In Fashion	TMZ (N)	etalk	Scream Queens		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Daniel Cook	Nght Grdn	Bears Saved	Max & Ruby		Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Daniel Cook
	115	711	101	TVA	*Les Dernières Vacances* ★★ (2006, Comédie) Queen Latifah.				Deux filles à Noël (N)		TVA 22 heures	Elvis vu par les Presley	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	Sanctuary "Warriors"		Stargate Atlantis (N)		Californication	True Blood	Brotherhood (N)		Sanctuary
	305	612	306	PIX	*Rhino Brothers*	(7:20) *The Boys Club* (1997, Drama)			*Scarface* ★★ (1983, Crime Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer.				

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critics'corner

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
This 1966 Dr. Seuss animated classic teaches the value of giving, caring and having a non-materialistic Christmas. Boris Karloff's rich voice just adds to the feeling of being surrounded by a warm blanket this time of year. 8 PM on CBC

Frosty the Snowman
Jackie Vernon provides the voice of Frosty, the snowman. Frosty comes to life when a magician's hat lands on his head. With the help of some children, he heads for the North Pole before he melts. But he is pursued by the magician, who wants his hat back. 8:30 PM on CBC

Intervention
This show has struck a chord with viewers, who have kept it on the air for several seasons. Tonight, it starts a new one with the story of Janet, whose psychic scars from childhood sexual abuse and bullying drove her into an early marriage to a drug dealer ... and her own drug and alcohol problems. Today, her drinking is out of control. 9 PM on A&E

Rashad speaking for Jenny Craig
Phylicia Rashad, who is best know for her role as Clair Huxtable on The Cosby Show, is the latest actress to be tapped as a spokeswoman for Jenny Craig. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Tara's in rehab

HEALTH Actress Tara Reid is in rehab, People.com reports.

"Tara Reid has checked herself into Promises Treatment Centre. We appreciate your respect to her and her family's privacy at this time," the actress' rep Jack Ketsoyan told People.

Ketsoyan would not reveal what Reid, 33, is being treated for.

A friend of Reid says she headed to the treatment facility on Tuesday.

"Her friends and family are supportive of her decision," said the friend. "She checked in herself — it was her decision."

It is unclear if Reid will spend the holidays at Promises.

In an interview in October, Reid People she was a "social drinker" who enjoyed an occasional glass of wine with friends.

Asked if she was ever tempted to fall back into old habits, Reid said: "No. I've done it. Trust me. I've done enough for a lifetime of everything. I've had a great time. I partied. I had fun. I ate and drank whatever. I dated a million guys, but I'm so happy with where I'm at right now."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kanye the intern?

FASHION Kanye West is to embark on a fashion internship in London, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The rapper is reportedly so determined to carve out a successful career designing clothes he is willing to start from the bottom and has been writing to fashion houses in Europe — including Louis Vuitton on London's Bond Street — asking for experience.

"I'm going to go and take an internship and just do something that's like completely normal, and just rap at the weekends or something," West says.

Designer Raf Simons confirmed West had approached him about an internship, but admitted he was unsure whether to take him on.

"I was blown away from the planet when he told me. I know he's very serious about this … But how can I imagine him being my intern? It's a very extreme situation," Simons says.

West is working on his Pastelle clothing line, which is set to debut next year.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gwyn, Chris' union 'safe'

MARRIAGE Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's marriage is safe and strong, according to the Oscar winner's close pal, chef Mario Batali, imdb.com reports.

Paltrow has been spotted partying in the U.S. with her pop star friend Madonna, while Martin tours the U.K. with his band Coldplay, prompting rumours their five-year marriage is in trouble.

Reports last week even suggested the couple planned to spend Christmas together in London in a bid to save their relationship.

But Batali, who shot a TV cookery show with Paltrow in Spain this summer, insists there's no truth to the rumours.

"Not true. I see them all the time. I don't think they're having problems," he tells Ok! magazine. Batali adds the pair's kids, Apple and Moses, help to keep their marriage strong.

"If you meet their kids, their kids are cool," he says. "Their kids have the fascination with new and open-eyed experiences. They're delightful, which means they're being taken care of at home by their parents. That's the key. They're really stay-at-home parents in a way that only rock stars and Academy Award winning actors can be."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Carey's video 'perfect' proposal

ENGAGEMENT Pop star Mariah Carey forced her husband Nick Cannon to propose twice so she could capture the "perfect moment" on film, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Carey made her Cannon get down on one knee again, a day after his initial surprise proposal.

"The next day, he took me on a helicopter ride around the Empire State Building," she says. "He got down on one knee and proposed again — someone was filming us this time because I decided I wanted a record of this perfect moment."

The recording came as a change of heart for the star, who had initially decided to keep the intimate moment private.

When she first discovered the 15-carat diamond ring hidden in a candy wrapper, she ran to turn off a video camera so she could secretly celebrate.

"I feel like everything in my life is always on film and I wanted this moment to be private. And I was so happy that I cried," Carey says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

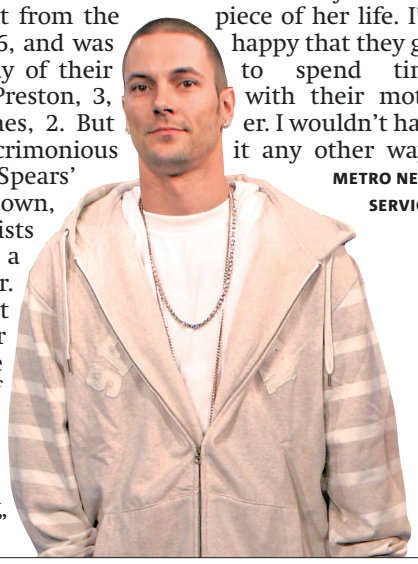
Federline praises Spears

PARENTING Kevin Federline has praised his ex-wife Britney Spears' parenting skills, insisting the singer is a "great" mom, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Federline split from the pop star in 2006, and was awarded custody of their children Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2. But despite their acrimonious breakup and Spears' public meltdown, Federline insists the Spears is a brilliant mother.

"I haven't been around her too much in the last couple of years but other than that, she's a great mother. Really hands-on with the kids," he tells Hello magazine.

"She spends a lot of time with them. She loves to play with them a lot. She really cares about them and I know they're a big piece of her life. I'm happy that they get to spend time with their mother. I wouldn't have it any other way."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Johansson refutes quotes

PEOPLE Fans might have guessed that actor Ryan Reynolds had a romantic side, but not because his wife Scarlett Johansson said so, E! News Online reports.

A rep for the actress has lashed out at Cosmopolitan's U.K. edition, calling its January cover story on Johansson an "obvious attempt … to gain monetarily by misinforming their readers."

Not only were marriage-related quotations attributed to Johansson "wholly fabricated," but Johansson "has at no point granted U.K. Cosmopolitan an interview, and she has never discussed her personal relationships with the publication," her rep said in a statement.

So where did the quotes come from?

Not Johansson, according to her camp.

"Ms. Johansson, who goes to great lengths to preserve an authentic representation of herself with respect to her fans and the media, is disappointed to see a seemingly reputable publication inexplicably publish a work of fiction at her expense," the statement continued.

Legal action will be taken, her rep promised.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Walsh's whirlwind romance over

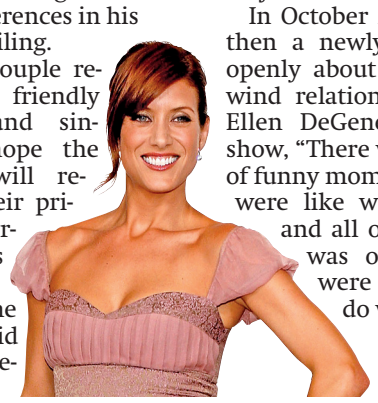
DIVORCE Actress Kate Walsh and her husband, Alex Young, are divorcing, imdb.com reports.

According to court papers obtained by People, Young, 37, petitioned for a divorce, citing irreconcilable differences in his Nov. 22 filing.

"The couple remain on friendly terms and sincerely hope the media will respect their privacy during this difficult time," the pair said in a statement.

The Private Practice star, 41, wed Young, a production co-president at 20th Century Fox, on Sept. 1, 2007, in the town of Ojai, just north of Los Angeles, after becoming engaged in May.

In October 2007, Walsh, then a newlywed, talked openly about their whirlwind relationship, telling Ellen DeGeneres on her show, "There was this kind of funny moment, after we were like we're married and all of the hoopla was over and we were like, 'What do we do now?'" other."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dane dismisses Knight rumours

TELEVISION Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane has blasted reports T.R. Knight has quit the show, insisting he is still shooting scenes, imdb.com says.

Rumours have circulated that Knight is to leave the hit medical drama, but Dane is adamant he's heard nothing from producers confirming the reports.

"Not that I know of," Dane said after being asked if the rumour is true. "I was with him yesterday working, so I don't know. Until (show creator) Shonda Rhimes tells me he's no longer on the show, he's there."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

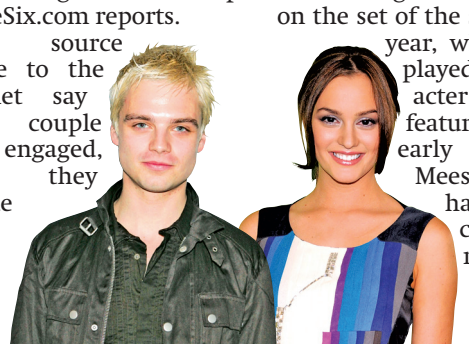
Gossip Girl stars engaged: report

RELATIONSHIPS Gossip Girl star Leighton Meester and her beau, Sebastian Stan, are taking the next step, PageSix.com reports.

A source close to the starlet say the couple are engaged, and they made the announcement on their "secret" Facebook pages.

Meester and Stan have been dating since they met on the set of the show last year, when Stan played a character who was featured in two early episodes.

Meester's rep had "no comment."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

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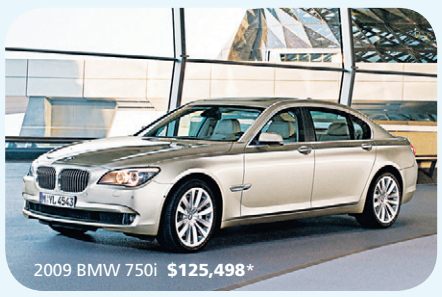
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*Includes all taxes and freight. Prizes may not be exactly as shown.

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Tuesday: Partly cloudy -5° / -7°
Wednesday: Flurries 0°/ -8° 80%

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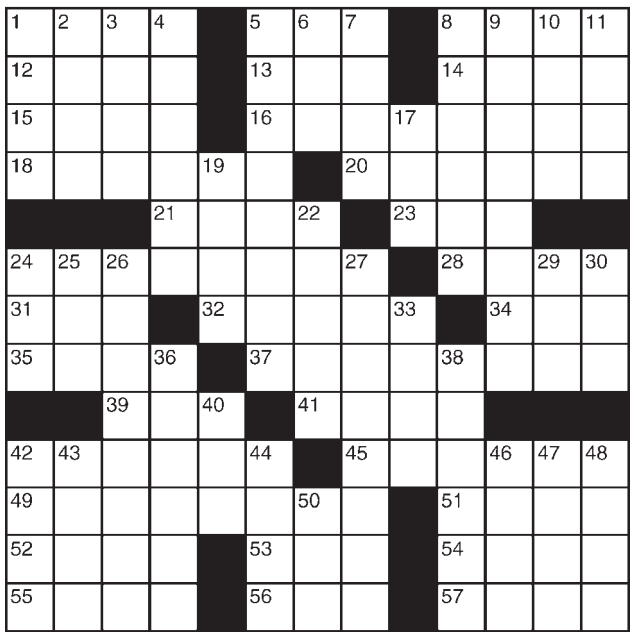

Crossword across

1 Saxophone range
5 Nov. follower
8 Impale
12 Benefit
13 "— Yankee Doodle Dandy ..."
14 Ocean motion
15 Farmland measure
16 Ross and backup
18 Looseleaf-paper holder
20 Lucky dice rolls
21 Prison, in Portsmouth
23 Shriner's cap
24 2007 comedy movie
28 Nary a soul
31 — out a living
32 Le Pew and Le Moko
34 Convent dweller
35 Catherine — -Jones
37 Quash
39 Tokyo's old name
41 Actress Gilpin
42 Straying
45 Some hosiery
49 Imagined
51 Press
52 Map
53 Past
54 One billionth (Pref.)
55 Longings
56 Director Howard
57 Radiate

Crossword down

1 Common rhyme scheme
2 Places
3 Undecided
4 Nervous
5 Strips
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 Uppercase
8 Spielberg or Bochco
9 Eastern or Pacific, e.g.
10 Mideast gulf
11 Harry's first lady
17 Ump
19 O.K. Corral VIP
22 Drink, as a puppy might
24 "— you!"
25 Guitar's island kin
26 Barrie boy
27 Trust
29 Greek consonants
30 Navy rank (Abbr.)
33 Agile
36 Tweaks
38 Angering
40 Yoko of music
42 Catch sight of
43 Hold the scepter
44 Despot
46 Exam format
47 Admonition to Nanette
48 Winter forecast
50 Id counterpart

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

				9		7	2	5
8	2		3	5			9	
						1		
			8					7
3	5		4		2		1	9
1					6			
		3						
	1			8	3		4	6
7	8	9		6				

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

3	8	9	1	7	5	6	4	2
6	5	4	2	3	8	1	7	9
7	1	2	9	6	4	5	8	3
1	6	8	5	4	2	9	3	7
4	7	5	3	9	1	8	2	6
9	2	3	6	8	7	4	1	5
8	4	6	7	5	3	2	9	1
2	9	7	4	1	6	3	5	8
5	3	1	8	2	9	7	6	4

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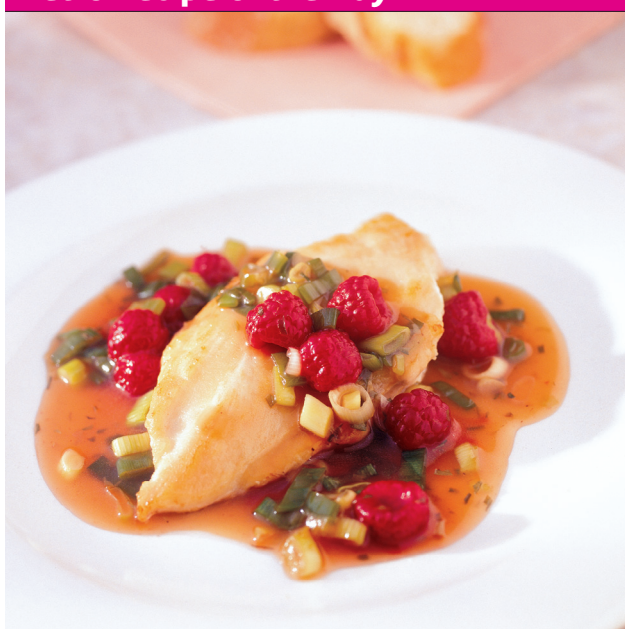
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Raspberry Chicken Breasts

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/2 pounds/750 g)
2 tbsp (25 mL) flour
4 scallions, thinly sliced
4 tsp (20 mL) sugar
1/3 cup (75 mL) raspberry vinegar or red wine vinegar
3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken broth
1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried tarragon
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) cornstarch blended with 1 tbsp (15 mL) water
1/2 pint (550 mL) raspberries

METHOD:

1. In large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Dredge chicken in flour, shaking off excess. Add chicken to pan and sauté 4 minutes per side or until golden brown. With slotted spoon, transfer chicken to plate.
2. Add scallions to pan and cook 1 minute or until soft. Add sugar and cook 4 minutes or until sugar has melted and is amber in colour. Add vinegar and bring to a boil.
3. Add broth, tarragon and salt, and bring to a boil. Return chicken to pan, reduce to simmer, cover and cook 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
4. Transfer chicken to dinner plates. Return sauce to a boil, whisk in cornstarch mixture and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute or until sauce is slightly thickened. Stir in raspberries. Spoon sauce over chicken.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A banking issue unnerves a leader. Someone will spare your feelings. Don't protect yourself from reality.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An optimistic person will give you hope. Your sincere commitment will impress a demanding man. Give your self-esteem a pep talk.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Have a good excuse handy if you're accused of being tricky. A dream makes you feel vague and unmotivated. Waste some time with fools.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It's a good time for unusual solutions. An amusing person wants to meet you. A manager wants you to help to stabilize a situation.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You can value the advice offered by a rude person. Take steps to secure your financial position. A matter must be dealt with now.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't reveal your identity to a mistrustful cyber-pal. A comical man chuckles when you chat. Someone rejects your wise advice.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A plucky woman uncovers hidden pleasures. Take your time while running errands. A creative associate challenges your intelligence.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A big-hearted man doesn't want to intimidate you. Being in the wrong place leads you to a troubled person. A crook tries to cheat someone.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A gossip queen gives an invitation. Reward yourself for your charitable acts. Trust your instincts with fascinating information.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Love and money won't come easily. A friend struggles with a decision. There'll be laughter when you go in the wrong direction.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Refuse to argue with a dishonest person. Be sensitive to a bully's anxious state. A brilliant person will share a heavenly experience.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There's anger due to an older person's deception. Be more aware of emotional undercurrents in public. Don't go on a blind date yet.

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Centerpoint Mall
Devonshire Mall
Dixie Outlet Mall
Dufferin Mall
Eastgate Square
Fairview Mall
Fairview Park Mall
Georgian Mall
Lime Ridge Mall
Masonville Place
Oshawa Centre
Pen Centre
Pickering Town Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Square One
Stone Road Mall
Tecumseh Mall
Toronto Eaton Centre
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
Yorkdale Mall

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